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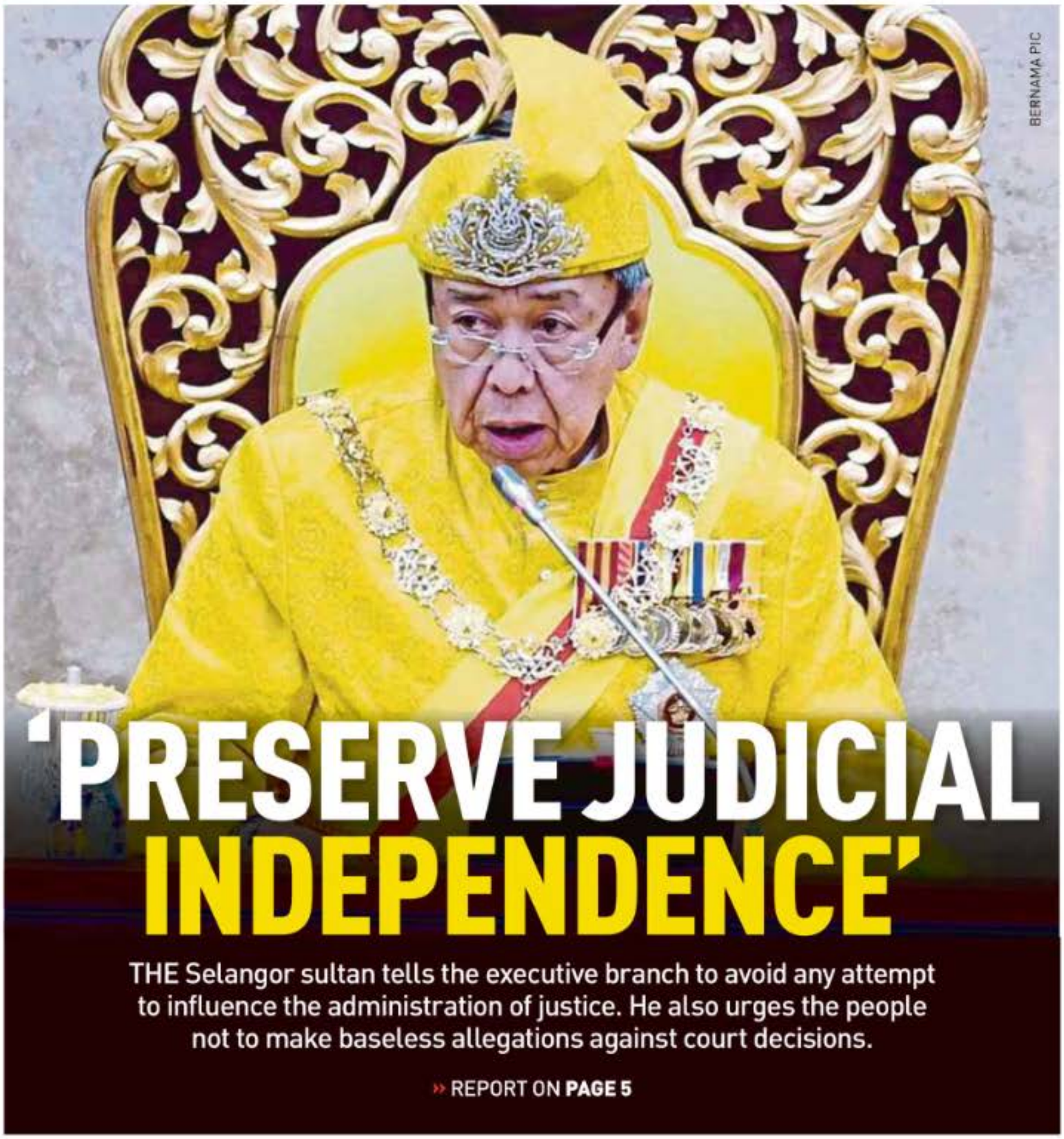
BERNAMA PIC

'PRESERVE JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE'

THE Selangor sultan tells the executive branch to avoid any attempt to influence the administration of justice. He also urges the people not to make baseless allegations against court decisions.

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Najib's 1MDB trial cut short due to his worsening health

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The govt should spend big, avoid austerity drive

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Zero screen time and more play are best for kids under 5

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PIC BY BOMBA

Helicopter pilot dies in crash

Wreckage is found in Perak forest reserve one day after air traffic control lost contact with the craft.

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NST LEADER

Soaring food prices

How to mend a broken system

FOOD prices around the world are soaring. In the estimate of *The Guardian*, food prices have surged by about 20 per cent this year, making 345 million people food insecure. This points to only one thing: a broken global food system. But first, a few words on the hungry and angry in Southeast Asia. Here, food inflation numbers are hard to come by, but average inflation will tell a similar story. According to *The Economist*, which quotes Asean-affiliated think tank AMRO, all 10 members of the bloc are forecast to be hit with an inflation rate of 5.2 per cent this year, more than double that of last year's. Panic-inducing prices are also being imported into the Philippines, Thailand and Singapore, three countries that rely heavily on imported food and fuel. It will be wrong to go away thinking that Asean countries aren't doing anything about it. Here is how they try to soften the blow, according to *The Economist*: raising the minimum wage (the Philippines and Laos), dole out cash to the poor (Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia), subsidise fuel or fertiliser (Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand) or cap prices for essential goods (Malaysia and Thailand). Such measures have worked for a few net exporters, but not for the rest. Also, being curative measures, they are good only for the short term. They don't get rid of the disease.

> *As WFP's analysis indicates, the dire crisis is one of access and affordability, not supply. But the power of a few makes the many go hungry.*

What does is a revamped global food system. The problem is, as World Food Programme chief economist Dr Arif Husain argued in an article in May, world leaders tend to only address the current crisis, not prevent future ones. Myopia rules. The Ukraine war did not cause the food crisis, Husain argues. We agree. It only deepens a pre-existing appalling one. As WFP's analysis indicates, the dire crisis is one of access and affordability, not supply. But the power of a few makes the many go hungry. When it comes to grain, a *Guardian* report reveals, four companies, the Archer-Daniels-Midland Company, Bunge, Cargill and Louis Dreyfus, control an estimated 70 to 90 per cent of the global grain trade. Seeds and chemicals suffer a similar fate, with three multinationals — Bayer-Monsanto, Dupont-Dow and Chem-China Syngenta — controlling 60 per cent of the trade. Ditto grocery stores. Do not get us wrong. We are not against companies making profits. After all, commerce is about profits. Our concern, and we think it should be the concern of world leaders who want to repair the global food system, is concentration of power in the hands of a few. When power is so concentrated, profiteering — as opposed to profit making — will not be far away.

There are a few ways to fix this. First is to get the companies to make their products more affordable. This is easier said than done. Challenging their dominance isn't easy. Second is to impose a windfall tax on profiteers. Oxfam suggests a 90 per cent windfall tax on excess profits. In the non-governmental organisation's calculation, this will yield US$490 billion in global tax. This will not only help in solving the food crisis, but also discourage profiteering. Finally, governments must ensure that farmers and producers reap what they sow and consumers are not priced out by the powerful few. Free market economists would be quick to protest at such government "interference". To the dismal scientists, we say this: there is no such thing as a free market.

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Rescuers examining the wreckage of the privately owned helicopter that crashed in the Chikus Forest Reserve in Batang Padang, Perak. PIC COURTESY OF FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

CAAM PROBES INCIDENT

CHOPPER PILOT DIES AT BIDOR CRASH SITE

HK-born pilot took off from Subang airport and crashed before scheduled arrival in Ipoh

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A HELICOPTER pilot, whose aircraft lost contact with air traffic control during a flight on Sunday, was found dead at the crash site in the Chikus Forest Reserve in Batang Padang, Perak, yesterday.

The pilot, identified as Richard Chan Tsz Kin, 58, from Hong Kong, was found by a search-and-rescue party about 9.30am among the wreckage of the privately owned Eurocopter EC120B.

Perak police chief Datuk Mohd Yusri Hassan Basri confirmed the discovery at a press conference at the Bidor police station here yesterday.

There was initially some confusion over the status of the pilot as Transport Minister Datuk Seri Wee Ka Siong had, earlier in the day, said he was found alive.

Yusri later clarified that the pilot had died.

Yusri said the wreckage was sighted by a Royal Malaysian Air Force helicopter crew at the forest reserve area about 9.30am.

Five minutes later, the crew went down to the location and found the victim in the cockpit.

"About 10.12am, the pilot's body was removed from the wreckage site and flown via helicopter to SMK Anderson.

"The body was then taken to the Raja Permaisuri Bainun Hospital in Ipoh for a post-mortem examination," Yusri said.

"There were no traces of explosions or burns at the scene. The cause of death will be known after the post-mortem. We have informed his family members."

He said the helicopter wreckage would be sent to the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM) for further investigation.

"We will secure the crash site to prevent anyone from entering the area as it can interfere with the investigation."

He said 207 personnel and officers from various agencies, including the police, Battalion 3 of the General Operations Force, Fire and Rescue Department, Forestry Department and Special Malaysia Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team, were involved in the operation.

CAAM chief executive officer Datuk Captain Chester Voo had on Sunday confirmed that a helicopter had lost contact with Kuala Lumpur Air Traffic Control Centre at 12.16pm.

The helicopter, with registration marking N409HH, was operated by Heli Outpost Sdn Bhd.

With Chan in command, the helicopter took off from the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang, Selangor, at 11.37am on Sunday for a private flight. It was set to land at 12.37pm at the Sultan Azlan Shah Airport in Ipoh.

CAAM said the Kuala Lumpur Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre at the Kuala Lumpur Air Traffic Control Centre was immediately activated to determine the helicopter's location.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

EX-FIREMAN AMONG FIRST TO FIND PILOT, WRECKAGE

Veteran with 16 years' experience glad to help even though he has retired

Perak police chief Datuk Mohd Yusri Hassan Basri showing images of the helicopter crash site in Bidor yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

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HE had opted for early retirement, but that did not prevent Mohamad Yunus Abu from joining the search-and-rescue operation to locate a missing helicopter and pilot.

With 16 years' experience in the field, the former Malaysian Central Region Fire and Rescue Academy (Rescue Studies) deputy chief was among the first person to locate the wreckage and the pilot.

Yunus, who retired in January this year, said he entered the forest reserve area on a four-wheel drive and travelled for an hour off the main road.

"We arrived at the scene at 9.50am. I was with Bidor sub-district village head Ahmad Fahmie Othman, as well as Kampung Chegar Development and Security Committee members and five Civil Defence Force officers.

"We entered (the forest) guided by the movement of two helicopters belonging to the police and the air force. The helicopters were seen hovering in the same area.

"Based on my experience and skills while serving in the fire brigade, this was a signal from the aircraft that something was happening below.

"So we searched for a suitable or closest road to reach the area," he said, adding that they found the wreckage and pilot at 9.50am.

Yunus said due to the area being swampy, he and his team had to traverse the route on foot for between 500m and 1km to reach the scene.

"When we reached the scene, we spotted air force officers near the wreckage.

"The helicopter was sandwiched between the trees.

"The pilot was taken out of the helicopter and we saw that the victim had injuries on his leg.

"The victim received initial treatment and we helped lift the victim onto the helicopter to be taken to hospital," he said.

Yunus, who is also former Perak Fire and Rescue Department assistant director, said he was glad that he could help.

"With the skills and experience that I have, I am ready to help the community, even though I am no longer working with the rescue team."

It was reported that the Eurocopter EC120B helicopter pilot who crashed in the Chikus Forest Reserve had succumbed to his injuries.

The Hong Kong-born pilot was identified as Richard Chan Tsz Kin, 58.

Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia chief executive officer Datuk Captain Chester Voo confirmed that a helicopter lost contact with the Kuala Lumpur Air Traffic Control Centre at 12.16pm on Sunday.

The helicopter, with the pilot in command, took off from the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang, Selangor, at 11.37am on Sunday for a private flight and was scheduled to land at 12.37pm at the Sultan Azlan Shah Airport here.

Transport Ministry to probe into crash

TAPAH: The Transport Ministry has activated an official investigation into the helicopter crash in Bidor, Perak.

Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM) chief executive officer Datuk Captain Chester Voo yesterday said the Air Accident Investigation Bureau under the Ministry would conduct the probe into the incident that killed the helicopter pilot.

Datuk Captain Chester Voo

Voo said CAAM also confirmed that the Eurocopter EC120B helicopter, registration marking N409HH, was found by air force helicopter RESCUE01.

"The wreckage and victim were found near Kampung Kenangan in Bidor at 8.18am," he said.

"The air force's Combat Air Rescue team was on the ground to help transport the victim from the wreckage.

"RESCUE01 airlifted the victim and landed at SMK Anderson at 10.30am before he was transported by ambulance to Raja Permaisuri Bainun Hospital in Ipoh."

Voo said the victim, however, lost consciousness during the rescue mission despite efforts to revive him.

"The coordination of the search-and-rescue operation at the Kuala Lumpur Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre, the Kuala Lumpur Air Traffic Control Centre, has ended with all units returning to base."

He said CAAM expressed its condolences to the victim's family.

"CAAM would also like to express our appreciation to SAR team members from the air force, police, Fire and Rescue Department, Special Malaysia Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team of the National Disaster Management Agency, the Health Ministry and other parties involved in the search-and-rescue mission."

The remains of the helicopter pilot being transported to Raja Permaisuri Bainun Hospital in Ipoh yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

NATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY POLICY 2.0

NEW POLICY TO HELP NATION BECOME HI-TECH

DBN 2.0 focuses on agriculture and healthcare, among others, says PM

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THE newly-launched National Biotechnology Policy 2.0 (DBN 2.0) will help Malaysia achieve its aspiration of becoming a hi-tech nation by 2030.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said the policy focused on agriculture and food security, healthcare and wellbeing, as well as an industrial and circular economy.

"This would ensure the field would be developed further, in line with the country's aspiration of becoming a hi-tech country by 2030. In line with the focus on agriculture biotechnology (biotech) and food security, the government will step up efforts in sustainable use of local natural resources for agriculture input, livestock and marine produce, as well as high-value aquaculture," he said at the launch of DBN 2.0 here.

He said this would see superfood and sustainable food products to be produced by using the latest technologies and a future food ecosystem.

He also said biotech played a crucial role in the nation's healthcare security in managing diseases.

He said DBN 2.0 would strengthen the existing biotech ecosystem and be a catalyst in addressing challenges related to food security, pandemic management and climate change crisis through local biotech solutions.

In driving the biotech industry growth, Ismail Sabri called for the active participation of the Malaysian Bioeconomy Development Corp Sdn Bhd to enhance the Bionexus Bill of Guarantees, National Institutes of Biotechnology Malaysia to strengthen research and development facilities and services, local venture capital companies and government-linked companies to support the biotech industry's growth and explore global market, and commercial banks to ease financing for local biotech companies.

He said DBN 2.0 outlined five targets — having 30 per cent of Bionexus companies penetrate global market and 70 per cent domestically; support Bionexus companies that could achieve unicorn status with three companies to achieve it by 2030; empowering institutes, institutions and researchers to become world-class; to get five per cent of the gross domestic product come from biotech companies; and get 80 per cent of biotech graduates recognised through micro-accreditation programmes and 20 per cent in post-degree programmes.

Ismail Sabri also announced the establishment of the Malaysia Biotechnology Alliance of Research Centre.

He said an advisory board of biotech experts would be created through the alliance to drive the country's agenda.

Ismail Sabri also announced a RM5 million fund for the Biobased Accelerator (BBA) programme to boost development of local companies in the biotech industry.

He said the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry recently held a consultation and had requested for the allocation to encourage the growth of local companies in the industry through BBA conducted by Bioeconomy Corp.

"This is significant considering the ministry has a conducive ecosystem to support the development of the biotech industry for the wellbeing of the Malaysian Family. I hope BioMalaysia will held in 2023 and attract more industry players, as well as local and foreign investors."

Earlier, Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba said DBN 2.0 would see initiatives to support biotech companies expanded to health and industry, apart from agriculture biotech stated in the first policy introduced in 2005.

He said it 61 per cent of biotech graduates in 2019 and 2020 were working in unrelated sectors due to a lack of inter-agencies coordination

He added that his ministry was willing to work with the Higher Education, Human Resources and the International Trade and Industry ministries to address the issue.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob inspecting a booth at the launch of the National Biotechnology Policy 2.0 in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY MOHAMAD SHAHRIL BADRI SAALI

INTERIM INJUNCTION

Ismail Sabri gets court order for Lokman to delete defamatory videos

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob yesterday obtained an interim injunction from the High Court here for former Umno member Datuk Lokman Noor Adam to delete immediately all videos on the latter's social media accounts that allegedly defamed the prime minister.

Lawyer Ragunath Kesavan, representing Ismail Sabri, said this followed a decision by Judicial Commissioner Roz Mawar Rozain in allowing an ex parte application by his client, who is also Umno vice-president.

"The court issued an injunction to compel the defendant to remove a video entitled *Bila Presiden Umno Panggil Tak Datang! Tapi PM Ada Masa Jumpa Mahathir-Lokman Adam* (When Called by the Umno President, He Doesn't Come! But the PM Has Time to See Mahathir-Lokman Adam), which was uploaded on the defendant's YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and TikTok accounts.

"The court also issued an injunction to prevent the defendant, either himself or his agents, from making similar statements on social media or any other website belonging to the defendant," Ragunath said after the proceeding, which was held in chambers.

According to him, the ex-parte order was issued yesterday pending the inter-partes hearing on Sept 26.

Ismail Sabri, 62, applied for the injunction in a suit he filed against Lokman, 49, on Sept 8.

The former filed the suit in his personal capacity. He named Lokman as the sole defendant.

In the statement of claim, Ismail Sabri said Lokman had on Aug 22 made defamatory statements against him in the video.

He claimed that malicious, defamatory and untrue statements were uploaded on four social media accounts belonging to the defendant, namely "Lokman Adam" Youtube, "Lokman Noor Adam Official" Facebook, "lokmanooradam" Instagram and "datoklokmanadam" Tik Tok.

According to Ismail Sabri, the statements meant, among other things, that he had met former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and had planned or intended to plan with the latter and opposition parties to get the former to remain as prime minister by turning his back on Umno.

Ismail Sabri claimed that he had never met Dr Mahathir and the opposition parties for that purpose nor was he engaged in unprincipled measures to prevent the dissolution of parliament for a general election to be held so that he could remain as prime minister.

Ismail Sabri is seeking general and exemplary damages, as well as interest, costs and other relief deemed fit by the court.

On Sept 1, Lokman pleaded not guilty in the Sessions Court here to two charges of making and initiating offensive communications against Ismail Sabri and the government through Facebook under the profile name "Lokman Noor Adam Official".

The offences were allegedly committed on Aug 20 and 22. **Bernama**

PRAYER TIMES

	SUBUH (am)	SYURUK	ZUHUR	ASAR (pm)	MAGHRIB	ISYAK
Melaka	5:56	7:04	1:10	4:11	7:13	8:21
Penang	6:02	7:08	1:17	4:20	7:20	8:30
K. Lumpur	5:58	7:04	1:12	4:13	7:15	8:24
Johor Baru	5:50	6:58	1:04	4:07	7:06	8:15
Kuantan	5:52	7:00	1:07	4:07	7:09	8:18
Ipoh	6:00	7:05	1:15	4:16	7:18	8:27

'AVOID BASELESS ALLEGATIONS'

SULTAN: UPHOLD JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE

Executive branch urged to stay clear of bid to influence administration of justice in country

SHAH ALAM

SULTAN of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, reminded the executive branch to always uphold the principle of judicial independence and steer clear of attempts to influence the administration of justice in the country.

Sultan Sharafuddin said judicial independence should be preserved with the support, understanding and commitment of all quarters, especially the executive branch.

"In this connection, I urge all quarters to work together by taking steps towards defending and ensuring the independence of the judicial body for the sake of the country's well-being and prosperity," Sultan Sharafuddin said in a statement yesterday.

His Highness asked the people to trust the country's judicial system and refrain from making unfounded allegations without knowing the facts and grounds of judgment in any case.

Sultan Sharafuddin said baseless allegations would cast negative perceptions on the independence of the judicial authority and erode public confidence, as well as trust, in the administration of justice in the country.

"This will also indirectly affect the good name of the country on the international stage," the sultan added.

Sultan Sharafuddin also expressed full support for the address by Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah on Sept 5 regarding the power of pardon, which could not be exercised arbitrarily merely for the interests of certain quarters.

His Highness said the people should understand that the pardon process needs to be implemented according to the legal provisions and procedures stipulated in the constitution and laws.

"Everyone in this country needs to be served with justice, fairness and transparency by the judicial body presiding over any case.

"Therefore, it is the responsibility of all parties to preserve the good name of the judiciary so it is not marred by any form of influence and pressure," Sultan Sharafuddin added. **Bernama**

Page 1 pic: Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah speaking at the opening of the third term of the 14th Selangor State Legislative Assembly on March 16, 2020.

Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah

CHANGE IN MEDICATION

Najib's worsening health sees 1MDB trial cut short

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Najib Razak's 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MBD) corruption trial was cut short yesterday due to his worsening health issue.

The proceedings were under way when the High Court was told that Najib, 69, had high blood pressure and required medical attention.

Deputy public prosecutor (DPP) Datuk Seri Gopal Sri Ram informed presiding judge Datuk Collin Lawrence Sequerah that Najib's blood pressure had changed due to his recent medication.

"The Prison Department's officer informed me that Najib's condition is quite bad, as his new medication has had an adverse effect on him.

"However, Najib is prepared to sit through the proceedings until 12.30pm, at which time he needs to leave for his appointment with his doctor at 2pm," he said.

Sequerah agreed and ordered the proceedings to end at 12.30pm.

The Pekan member of parliament, clad in a grey suit, appeared calm as he sat in the dock during the proceedings.

His wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, sat behind him in the public gallery.

During the proceedings, AmBank Jalan Raja Chulan branch manager R. Uma Devi, in the examination-in-chief by Sri Ram, testified that Najib never complained about the money in his bank account.

The 43-year-old also testified that Najib never filed any suits against the bank when he held five accounts with them between 2011 and 2015.

Uma Devi was also a witness in Najib's corruption trial involving the misappropriation of RM42 million in SRC International Sdn Bhd funds, where the latter was found guilty and sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment and a RM210 million fine.

She said all customers received their bank statements monthly, which listed all transactions in their accounts.

Sri Ram: Does your bank have a system where the customer is sent bank statements at intervals?

Uma Devi: Yes. Monthly intervals.

Sri Ram: In this case, did the accused ever complain about the account statements to the bank?

Uma Devi: To my knowledge, even in the SRC case, there were no complaints.

Sri Ram: Between 2015 and 2018, did the accused file any suits against AmBank for mishandling his account, to your knowledge?

Uma Devi: To my knowledge, no.

Najib is facing four charges of using his position to obtain bribes totalling RM2.3 billion from 1MDB funds and 21 charges of money laundering involving the same amount.

The hearing will resume today.

Meanwhile, Najib's family urged the authorities to grant him access to proper medical care and observation due to his medical condition.

Najib's special officer, Muhamad Mukhlis Maghribi, said doctors detected multiple new ulcers in his stomach during a scope on Saturday.

Mukhlis said doctors from Kuala Lumpur Hospital had to clip several ulcers in Najib's stomach to stop the bleeding that occurred during a biopsy on Sunday.

"It has been a recurring problem since more than 15 years ago.

"In 2010, it was public knowledge that he was hospitalised for a few days due to his condition.

"Last year, he was also in the Intensive Care Unit at a private hospital for a week, where he had five blood transfusions to replace the blood he lost due to internal bleeding," Mukhlis said in a statement yesterday.

He said Najib had requested to be held for observation at Kuala Lumpur Hospital, but the request was denied.

"The doctor discharged him, changed his medication from the usual (prescription) that he had been taking for years, and sent him back to Kajang Prison.

"This (yesterday) morning, a test by a medical assistant showed that Najib's blood pressure is dangerously high due to the change in his medication.

"This led to the DPP telling the judge this (yesterday) morning that Najib's health is in poor condition and he will need to be sent to hospital.

"On humanitarian grounds, Najib's family pleads with the prisons, the hospital and (Prime Minister) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob's government to do the right thing and allow Najib to be given proper medical care and be placed under observation."

Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor and Nooryana Najwa Najib (inset) arriving at the Kuala Lumpur Courts Complex yesterday to attend Datuk Seri Najib Razak's 1Malaysia Development Bhd corruption trial. BERNAMA PIC

NAJIB RAZAK 1MDB TRIAL

MONSOON PREPARATIONS

PM: FLOOD MEASURES ROLLED OUT

Empty school hostels to be turned into relief centres, 6,010 evacuation centres activated

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THE government has rolled out measures to face the year-end floods, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob yesterday.

He said this included instructing the Education Ministry to convert vacant boarding school hostels into relief centres for flood victims, especially senior citizens, women and children.

He said the Social Welfare Department had activated 6,010 temporary evacuation centres that could shelter 1,620,855 people.

He said this after chairing the Central Disaster Management Committee meeting, which discussed flood preparations.

Ismail Sabri said heavy rain was expected in Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang from November to December and in Johor, Sabah and Sarawak from December to January.

"A total of 79,549 officers and rescue agency members are ready to be deployed with our assets.

"The government has mobilised 22,622 assets, comprising boats, boat trailers and jet skis. Assets have to be coordinated well to ensure rescue missions are efficient.

"We have agreed to activate district disaster management committees, chaired by district officers, and empower them in flood-prone areas.

"They have an important role in rescue work and sending aid to flooded areas.

"The National Disaster Management Agency (Nadma) and state disaster management committees will coordinate efforts at the federal and state levels."

He said the government had set aside RM2.59 million to upgrade facilities and infrastructure in evacuation centres, such as shower rooms and toilets.

"The Welfare Department should prepare meals for the first 24 hours for flood victims and necessities for babies and senior citizens, such as disposable diapers.

"Nadma has distributed 59,350 food kits and 127,272 cubicle tents.

"State and district disaster management committees have to get ready early so that aid can be supplied to all areas, especially if roads are cut off during floods.

"The committees should ensure early warning systems in flood-prone areas are working.

"The siren sound should be distinguishable from ambulance and police sirens.

"The authorities will make announcements on evacuations through loudspeakers."

Ismail Sabri urged people living in low-lying areas to be aware of early warnings and evacuate their homes once the authorities tell them to.

The Meteorological Department has forecast that the country will face continuous heavy rain from mid-November, which may lead to extensive floods at the end of the month.

The severe weather is expected to be more significant this time as the northeast monsoon will be active at the end of the year and the La Nina phenomenon is expected to continue until early next year.

FIRST DAY OF NEW TERM

Some students happy to go maskless, others remain cautious

KUALA LUMPUR: Many students attended the first day of the new school term without face masks yesterday.

Students expressed relief that they no longer had to wear a face mask, but teachers and parents continued to remind them to abide by standard operating procedures (SOP) of the new norm.

In **Pahang**, Mohammad Hazeem Azemi, a teacher at SMK Kuala Krau, said teachers could interact with students and deliver lessons better when their faces were visible.

"Students, especially those sitting at the back of classrooms, learn best through the teacher's eye contact, body language and facial expressions.

"Some students learn how to pronounce or articulate a word by looking at their teacher's lips.

"This is particularly true for pupils and lower secondary school students."

In **Melaka**, Siti Nur'Adilah Izzati, a teacher and warden at SMK Dang Anum, said students could learn more comfortably when they can breathe easily.

"Students must still be responsible and follow the SOP even though they can decide whether to wear face masks. About half of the students here still wear face masks."

A teacher from SK Pandan Jaya here, who wanted to be known only as Mohd Hizami, said he had no issue with the relaxation of face masks rules as most classrooms were well ventilated and most students were fully vaccinated.

Students — some with face masks, some without — arriving at a school in Putrajaya yesterday. PIC BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

Siti Hajar Lutfhi, a Form One student from SMK Pandan Jaya here, said she was happy that wearing face masks was now optional.

"I am not used to wearing face masks in the classroom. Despite teachers advising us to wear them, I prefer not to."

SK Pandan Jaya Year 4 student Mohamad Wafi Syafuan Mohd Shaharil said he could learn and do activities more comfortably now that face mask rules were relaxed.

"In the past, I only removed my face mask during Physical Education. So it is great news that some rules have been relaxed."

In **Shah Alam**, Rohi Rani, 47, whose children attend SK Bukit Naga, said she accepted the ruling as both her children had been wearing face masks for a long time. "I'm sure the school knows what is best for pupils and I trust their decision," she said.

Suraya Begum Mat Tazin, a single mother of three, said she still asked her children to wear face masks at school.

"When youngsters are having fun, they tend to forget about the SOP, such as sanitising their hands or physical distancing."

PIP to transform NCER socioeconomic landscape

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THE dynamics in the northern region of Peninsular Malaysia are set to change once the RM1.2 billion Perlis Inland Port (PIP) at the border of Malaysia and Thailand is operational.

PIP, with rail connectivity to facilitate trade movements between Malaysia and Thailand, as well as to Kunming and interior China, is indeed a game changer for the region.

The PIP is an iconic Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) infrastructure project, and part of the Northern Corridor Economic Region's (NCER) border development programme. PIP will move into full speed construction in the fourth quarter this year. Construction of the first phase is scheduled for completion by third quarter 2024. At present, preliminary work is progressing.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob, at the launch of the project on March 15, said the development of the PIP would spur the growth of Malaysia-Thailand cross-border trade, as both nations strive to achieve RM126 billion in bilateral trade by 2025.

Being strategically located near the Malaysia-Thai border, PIP is a key tactical project for the region that is well-positioned to reap the economic and trade benefits of cross-border businesses between the neighbouring countries.

"As far as the Northern Corridor Implementation Authority (NCIA) is concerned, PIP will alter the landscape of the NCER and create jobs and new opportunities for the business community," NCIA chief executive Mohamad Haris Kader Sultan told the *New Straits Times* in an exclusive interview on the sidelines of NCIA's 3rd Teh Tarik Session at its headquarters in Penang recently.

There are two sources of funds for this project namely the public and private sectors. The government, through NCIA, will develop three external infrastructures, specifically the bonded road between PIP and customs complex, railway spur line and flyover connecting PIP to public access. These external infrastructures will facilitate seamless cargo movement into PIP and connectivity to the existing railway line at Padang Besar.

Wan Ahmad Zaheed Wan Mohamad

"We welcome this project as a testament of how public-private partnerships can work together for the betterment of the economy.

"PIP will strategically support the industrial parks under development in the NCER, namely the Chuping Valley Industrial Area (CVIA), Kedah Rubber City (KRC), Chuping Agro Valley (CAV) and Kedah Science and Technology Park (KSTP).

"We saw how Penang Port supported growth in the north before this. You are going to see different dynamics in the next five to 10 years once PIP is fully operational," said Mohamad Haris.

Mutiara Perlis Sdn Bhd (MPSB), a privately funded joint venture with the Perlis state government, will develop PIP in three phases, with the first phase comprising a Rail Park (three rail sidings and open yard) and a Logistic Park (pack-houses, warehouses, and storage silos). Once completed, PIP will provide an integrated one-stop centre for logistics activities.

"We undertook a study to understand the needs at the Thai border and the movement of cargo from South Thailand to Malaysian ports. Thailand is also upgrading ports, building new ports and studying the viability of the land bridge project. There is a need for a bigger logistics facility with multiple entry and exit points near the border such as PIP," said MPSB managing director and chief executive officer Wan Ahmad Zaheed Wan Mohamad.

PIP will spur the growth of Malaysia-Thailand cross-border trade. Both nations expect to achieve RM126 billion in bilateral trade by 2025.

PIP is strategically located 9.5km from Chuping Valley Industrial Area (CVIA) and near the Malaysia-Thai border.

At present, the Padang Besar Container Terminal (PBCT) is the freight rail market leader with 60 per cent market share operating on a mere 4.85-hectare site. Padang Besar in Perlis is an important gateway for cargo from South Thailand, and PIP will further enhance the positioning by offering various other value-add services such as pack-houses, stuffing and destuffing cargo and repair of containers among others within its 202ha infrastructure.

PIP's size offers immense potential beyond borders for global scale of business and supply chain.

"If you look at the China market alone, it is huge. From the study, we estimate a sizeable percentage of PIP's 202ha will be just for the China market, not to mention the other connections beyond China," Wan Zaheed pointed out.

"The competitive edge is for PIP to be the gateway because Perlis is connected to Penang and there are various electronics, electrical, computer components, chips, and semiconductors from Penang that will go as far as Chengdu and Chongqing in China," added Mohamad Haris.

"NCER's KRC and CVIA will become more attractive because investors will have access to modern logistical facilities just next door to them at PIP.

"NCIA will facilitate incentives and basic infrastructure that will help the private investors to grow. Once investors come in, jobs and local vendors will be created," said Mohamad Haris.

"This is how we open up new areas in the north. Penang has always been the champion but there are new areas like Padang Besar and Padang Terap in Kedah. So, we start creating new nodes and closing the regional gaps."

Mohamad Haris said they were in Thailand two months back and found that the Thais were receptive to PIP and NCER's border development programme. They see this project as complementary to their own growth.

"The Consul-General of Thailand in Penang, Raschada Jiwalai, attended the Teh Tarik Session. The Thais are interested to partner us, in the spirit of what the prime ministers of both countries had announced, to increase trade.

"The Consuls from the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Penang, Zheng Fang and Luo Ling Ling, were also present. They also see opportunities for China to participate in this development.

"Parallel to PIP, Penang Port is also expanding in anticipation of increased movement of cargo from this region to the rest of the world, especially to and from China post-pandemic. If PIP comes up and Penang Port does not expand, then there will be a bottleneck. The two projects must be developed in tandem," said Mohamad Haris.

He also added that globally, many of the border towns progressed well, citing Johor Baru enjoys development as a border town.

"The Thai side of the border is progressing better; however, on our side, the development has not kept up with the potential of a border town. Therefore, initiatives like PIP will boost the economy of Perlis in particular, and the region in general.

"A tremendous project like PIP will improve the socioeconomy of the state. The spur line for PIP will be connected to Penang Port. So, to go to Penang Port, it must go through Kedah as well. This means the whole stretch will benefit from the spillover impact.

"In the case of the PIP, we are talking about 500 high value jobs and at least another 2,000 normal jobs even during the construction phase itself. The economic spill over to the people surrounding will increase. Ordinary folks will benefit from this project.

"The objective of NCIA is to overcome regional imbalances for the NCER. At the end of the day, we aspire for the other three states to be on par with Penang," concluded Mohamad Haris.

Mohamad Haris Kader Sultan

'COMMITTED TO ITS ROLE'

INFLATION TASK FORCE CHIEF REBUTS CRITICISM

OPR hike not a good gauge of country's economic management, says Annuar

Jihad Against Inflation Special Task Force chairman Tan Sri Annuar Musa speaking during a press conference in Putrajaya, yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

PUTRAJAYA

IT is not appropriate to accuse the Jihad Against Inflation Special Task Force of failing at its job just because Bank Negara Malaysia's Overnight Policy Rate (OPR) has increased, said task force chairman Tan Sri Annuar Musa.

Speaking at a press conference after chairing the task force meeting here yesterday, Annuar said matters concerning national monetary policies were not decided by the task force or the cabinet but by Bank Negara's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which has an excellent record in economic management.

"It is not appropriate for a member of parliament to say the task force failed because the OPR rose by 25 basis points.

"That's a very shallow way of evaluating the country's economic management," said Annuar, when commenting on DAP chairman Lim Guan Eng's call for the task force to be dissolved.

Last Friday, Lim urged Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob to dissolve the task force, claiming it was ineffective, inefficient and irrelevant in stemming a rise in prices of goods.

Citing Bank Negara's statement that the OPR hike was due to inflationary pressures, Lim, the Bagan MP, said this refuted Annuar's claim that inflation in the country was under control.

Bank Negara, on Sept 8, increased the OPR by 25 basis points to 2.50 per cent, the third consecutive rate hike made by the central bank.

Annuar said certain countries had taken more drastic steps by raising the OPR by 75 basis points due to high inflationary pressures, but in Malaysia, the process of restoring the OPR to a stable level was done gradually with a 25-point increase each time.

"There is no need to doubt the action taken by MPC because they take an overall view of the scenario to ensure the country has a good monetary policy," said the communications and multimedia minister.

Annuar said the task force would remain committed in combating inflation.

He said the task force was not created on an ad hoc basis, because it was established based on a cabinet paper prepared by the Economic Planning Unit in the Prime Minister's Department.

"There should not be any passing the buck. The cabinet has decided to grasp the bull by the horns and micro-manage every problem faced by the people," he said, adding that all quarters should cooperate instead of working in silos.

On concerns regarding depreciation of the ringgit, Annuar said the worries were actually on the drop against certain currencies, especially the US and Singapore dollars against which the ringgit had weakened by seven per cent and 3.9 per cent respectively.

However, he said the ringgit had strengthened against the currencies of certain trading partners, gaining 15.5 per cent over the Japanese yen, 8.2 per cent over the British pound, 7.3 per over the Korean won and 4.4 per cent over the euro.

"To those who understand the need to look at the overall value of currencies, our performance in that aspect is good. But compared with the US dollar, it is a fundamental matter which Bank Negara is constantly studying and making certain adjustments to, including regulating the OPR increase." **Bernama**

INJURIES ON BODY

'S.M. FAISAL'S WIFE HAD BRUISES'

Cop tells court that Emilia Hanafi had made a report about allegedly being hit and choked by her then husband in 2015

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A POLICEMAN said he saw bruises on Emilia Hanafi's body when recording her domestic violence report on Nov 22 seven years ago, the magistrate's court here heard yesterday.

Prosecution witness Corporal Mahmood Riad Mohd Noor, 43, who manned the Sri Hartamas police headquarters front desk that day, said Emilia had come to the police station twice to lodge a report about being hit by her then-husband, Datuk SM Faisal SM Nasimuddin Kamal.

He said she had come in the evening and later at midnight, and that she was distressed.

He said she was crying on both times, claiming that she was hit and choked by her (then) husband.

Mahmood said his shift was between 4pm and midnight that day. However, he had received last-minute instructions from the police chief to record Emilia's statement.

"She showed her bruises on her first visit. I took her to triage service and was instructed by the police chief to issue a police instruction for her to seek further medical treatment.

"She came again at midnight, this time with a woman. She was, again, in distress and was taken to the triage service room to calm down.

"I saw obvious injuries on Emilia's body as I recorded her statement that night.

"There were bruises, but I couldn't recall where they were on the body," he said when reading out his witness statement in court.

He said he recorded Emilia's statement at 12.37am on Nov 23.

SM Faisal's lawyer, Datuk Akberdin Abdul Kader, asked the witness about the report lodged by SM Faisal, around one hour after Emilia lodged hers.

Emilia Hanafi and Datuk SM Faisal SM Nasimuddin Kamal

Akberdin suggested to Mahmood that there was another police officer by the name of Constable Ngu Tien Tien, who had clocked in after his shift and recorded SM Faisal's report at 1.32am.

The witness agreed with the suggestion when he was shown a copy of the said police report, in which it stated that SM Faisal and his then-wife had a miscommunication on Nov 22, which led to a physical altercation and both were injured in the alleged fight.

Following this, the witness also agreed with Akberdin's suggestions that SM Faisal and Emilia's reports were given to the same investigating officer by the name 'Puan Rosnani' for investigations.

SM Faisal is charged with voluntarily causing hurt to Emilia, 43, at a house in Desa Sri Hartamas, Brickfields, here, between 12.30pm and 4.30pm on Nov 22, 2015.

He is charged under Section 323 of the Penal Code and punishable under Section 326A of the same code, which provides a maximum jail term of two years, a maximum fine of RM2,000 or both, upon conviction.

The trial before magistrate Nadia Othman continues.

MONEY LAUNDERING

Former unlicensed land broker's jail, RM1m fine upheld

PUTRAJAYA: The Court of Appeal here yesterday upheld a five-year jail sentence and RM1 million fine imposed by a lower court 12 years ago on a former unlicensed land broker for money laundering.

This followed a decision by a three-member panel of the Court of Appeal in dismissing the appeal by Gan Kiat Bend, 64, to set aside his conviction, as well as jail sentence and fine.

In the court's decision, justice Datuk Hanipah Farikullah, chairing the panel, said there was no merit in Gan's appeal and no appealable error by the lower court to warrant the appellate court's intervention.

The two other judges were justices Datuk Nordin Hassan and Datuk Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali.

Gan, who was on bail of RM170,000 pending disposal of his appeal, was ordered by the Court of Appeal to begin his jail sentence yesterday after the court issued a warrant of committal against him.

Gan was charged with four counts of money laundering by receiving proceeds from unlawful activities amounting to RM2.4 million, allegedly committed at Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia Bhd, in Jalan Ampang, Selangor, between Nov 19, 2003, and Jan 9, 2004.

On Dec 23, 2010, the Sessions Court sentenced him to five years in jail and RM1 million fine, in default one year jail for the first charge and two years jail for the second charge.

He was sentenced to six months imprisonment for the third charge and two years jail for the fourth charge.

However, Gan was ordered to serve the jail sentences concurrently, meaning he would only have to serve five years in jail.

The Sessions Court also ordered Gan to pay RM2.4 million penalty or levy under Section (2) of the Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorism Financing Act 2001. He would received another jail term if he failed to pay the penalty within a year.

His appeal at the High Court was dismissed on March 10, 2017.

Gan settled the RM1 million fine, but did not pay the RM2.4 million penalty.

He was initially charged together with another unlicensed land broker, Ismail Hussin, who is now dead.

Gan was represented by lawyer Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah, while deputy public prosecutors Datuk Dusuki Mokhtar, Nahra Dollah and Samihah Rhazali prosecuted. **Bernama**

EVOKING NOSTALGIA

1950s, 1960s fashion theme to liven up Malaysia Day

The main stage being set up for the 2022 Malaysia Day celebration at the Independence Declaration Memorial Square in Bandar Hilir, Melaka, on Saturday. BERNAMA PIC

MELAKA: The fashion of the 1950s and 1960s has been selected as the theme of the Malaysia Day 2022 celebration at the Independence Declaration Memorial Square in Bandar Hilir here to liven up the atmosphere and evoke the nostalgia of the formation of Malaysia in 1963.

State Information Department director Shahrom Ravin Daram Abdullah said the theme would add to the uniqueness of this year's Malaysia Day celebration, which was expected to be attended by about 20,000 visitors.

"I can feel that this year's celebration will be more lively," he said at his office here recently.

Shahrom Ravin Daram Abdullah

Shahrom said the celebration would also highlight Melaka's popular mode of transportation, the rickshaw.

"The guests of honour and other VIPs will arrive at the venue in rickshaws, accompanied by antique Vespa motorcycles, bicycles and a band playing songs from the 1950s and 1960s.

"We also have banners written in Jawi and old Malay spelling to evoke the era when Malaysia was formed," he said.

He said this year's Malaysia Day celebration would start at 8pm and he urged people, especially those in Melaka and nearby areas, to attend en masse and don their traditional clothes.

He added that there would be programmes to evoke the spirit of togetherness and patriotism, such as the recital of Rukun Negara, an opening performance on "Catatan Malaysia", the signing of the Malaysia Proclamation Book and a performance titled "Dari Robohan Kota Melaka, Kita Dirikan Negara Merdeka", which is divided into four segments.

"These performances will be presented in the form of movements, visuals and narration on the history of the formation of Malaysia, including monologues, poetry readings, pantomimes and infographics."

There will also be performances by local artistes, including Datuk Jamal Abdillah, Datuk Nash, Ernie Zakri, Jimmy Palikat, Anding, Iwere, Kenny Lee and Radhi P.Ramlee.

Commenting on the Information Department's preparations for the celebration, Shahrom said 610 banners and 22 billboards had been installed in the state since the start of the National Month celebration on Aug 1.

Apart from that, he said, the state Information Department, through the District Information Office, had also mobilised the "Info on Wheels" machinery to make announcements on the celebration to the public.

"We are also working with the Broadcasting Department, Bernama and the Corporate Communications Division of the Melaka Chief Minister's Department to spread the word by sharing the announcement on their social media platforms.

"Information on the celebration is also shared through WhatsApp groups with 84 Malaysian family communities in the state."

The public is encouraged to share hashtags for all national activities on social media, namely #KeluargaMalaysiaTeguhBersama, #KeluargaMalaysia, #TeguhBersama, #HKHM2022, Merdeka360 and #KKOMM.

They can also visit www.merdeka360.my, which is the hub pf information on National Day and Malaysia Day celebrations. **Bernama**

PRODUCTIVE SPENDING

People's pockets hit hard despite stream of 'good' economic news

DR IRWAN SHAH ZAINAL ABIDIN

IN theory, when economic activities improve, they'll be reflected in the gross domestic product (GDP) data.

In other words, businesses, consumption, investments, government spending and trade are expanding, which will reduce unemployment and increase inflation.

On the surface, GDP has improved, at an impressive 8.9 per cent in the second quarter of this year.

The latest unemployment rate is 3.7 per cent and the inflation rate has seen an upward pressure at 4.4 per cent in July.

Thus, when demand increases, there is a risk of high inflation, meaning the economy will overheat.

Therefore, contractionary fiscal policies are needed and tightening of monetary policies have to be put into place.

Fiscal policies are controlled by the government and monetary policies are governed by Bank Negara.

There must be a separation between the two. One entity cannot influence the other.

The decision by the government to impose a mild austerity measure and the much expected decision by Bank Negara to hike the interest rates by another 25 basis points are within the logic of economic theories.

Developments globally — in the United States, the United Kingdom, Europe, China and Ukraine — have validated the relationship between theories and practice and hence, the move by Bank Negara.

As much as economics must be driven by data, economics will always be a social science rather than a hard science. If it is a hard science, it must surely be a dismal one.

Simply put, there are always two sides of a story and the interpretation of the data must be based on local context, such as historical developments as well as the political situation.

In general, I think Bank Negara made the right move by increasing the overnight policy rate (OPR) by another 25 basis points.

After all, we could see evidence that the rise in inflation was to some extent due to demand-pull factors and not just a cost-push narrative.

> *Instead of an austerity drive, the government should spend big. It's whether the government spends it productively or otherwise. Putting money to develop a better and more comprehensive social safety net is an example of productive spending.*

But this move by Bank Negara will further increase people's living expenses, where their cost of borrowing will go up in tandem with the rise in the OPR as commercial banks will increase their interest rates.

More worryingly, right after the announcement to increase interest rates, the ringgit slipped further against the greenback, depreciating to RM4.72 from RM4.49 against the dollar.

The weakening of the ringgit this time will increase people's cost of living further through imported inflation.

Today, many people sustain their living expenses through personal loans and credit cards. They might as well continue applying for personal loans out of desperation.

In fact, bankruptcy rates, among the youth and the Bumiputeras, are on the rise. This is a time bomb that needs attention from the government.

This is where fiscal policies can make sure the bomb does not explode.

We should not compare our inflation rate with that of other countries, or argue that even other currencies have depreciated against the greenback.

If we do, then compare the cost of living and purchasing power of the people as well.

Only then can the comparison make sense to people, especially those in the B40, M40 and vulnerable groups.

Instead of an austerity drive, the government should spend big. It's whether the government spends it productively or otherwise.

For example, allocating almost RM80 billion for subsidies is an example of an unproductive spending.

Putting money to develop a better and more comprehensive social safety net is an example of productive spending.

Investing in climate change is another example of productive spending.

Nevertheless, even though our GDP numbers in the second quarter look good, but on a quarterly basis, they expanded slower than the previous quarter.

Although our investment numbers look good, our competitiveness index has dropped and the ringgit has depreciated further.

And even though our total exports recorded a convincing number, our net exports in the second quarter were negative, and were in fact worse than in the first quarter.

When the people's pockets have not recovered, it is difficult for them to appreciate all the "good" economic data highlighted by the government.

The writer is associate professor at the School of Economics, Finance and Banking, Universiti Utara Malaysia

SUSTAINABILITY

An integrated approach will deliver SDGs

DZULKIFLI ABDUL RAZAK

MALAYSIA took a big step when it launched the kick-off of the National Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Roadmap 2022-2025 before the National Day.

Supported by the United Nations Development Programme and hosted by the Economic Planning Unit (EPU), the launch saw an impressive number of lead agencies and organisations attending roundtable discussions with the International Islamic University Malaysia taking the lead.

This is in tandem with the 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP) where SDGs are featured, and will end in 2030 as part of Agenda 2030 on SDGs globally.

Malaysia has a huge stake in this when reconstructing its own future given that the Shared Prosperity Vision (SPV) will be aligned with the implementation of the 12MP and the 13MP.

Unless this is properly conceptualised and executed, the risk can be enormous.

SPV, or *Warisan Kemakmuran Bersama* (WKB), speaks the language of SDG in that it is a systematic game-changer based on the whole-of-society (WOS) approach.

It is at once multidimensional, putting the three Ps of People, Planet and Prosperity — representing the social, ecological and eco-nomic (note the hyphen) dimensions — as the platform for sustainability.

It also takes into consideration Peace and Partnership — another two Ps — as the ultimate goal towards this end.

A world that is more equitable, just and *sejahtera* for all Malaysians if not humanity.

The word *sejahtera* is vital in emphasising the need for localisation of not just the concept, but also norms, values and cultural aspects.

This is a fundamental principle of SDGs that is often missed for a one-size-fits-all solution globally.

This is especially so when dominant cultures have been shown to be unsustainable as a way of life.

Thus, dominant countries are living on the resources of one planet, depriving others of their share.

This is demonstrated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Not only is it untenable, it could also be another form (virtual) of colonisation.

Needless to say, *pembangunan lestari* means sustainable development in another language that lacks the deeper understanding of the centuries-old way of living embraced by *sejahtera*.

That said, the kick-off that took place a couple of days before the National Day reminded us of the need to be decolonised, while at the same time, be interdependent, as mentioned by this column last week (NST, Sept 6).

It is crucial to understand that SPV, or even SDGs, is not a standalone programme.

Rather, it delivers all the five P targets that are linked to one another in a balanced manner.

In framing this as a Keluarga Malaysia concept with *Teguh Bersama* as the theme, it brings forth the whole-of-nation approach in line with the National Sustainable Development Goals Roadmap strategy.

Meaning, every family must be a sustainable or *sejahtera* entity before Malaysia can be sustainable and *sejahtera*.

It calls for a bottom-up strategy that empowers each member of the family to articulate, translate and implement *sejahtera* accordingly.

Only then will it be possible to envisage a community and a nation that are sustainable.

Moreover, the word *makmur* (in WKB) is linked to *sejahtera* and is not confined to only material prosperity, but also to nurturing the "whole (*sejahtera*) person".

In the same way, it could be argued that the Economic Planning Unit should have morphed into SPU — Sustainability or better still Sejahtera Planning Unit — to convey the message that it took an integrated approach to deliver sustainable development goals and *Warisan Kemakmuran Bersama*.

This assurance will go a long way in convincing Malaysians as to how the future is collectively achieved.

The writer, an NST columnist for more than 20 years, is International Islamic University Malaysia rector

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The editor reserves the right to edit a letter for clarity and length.

LETTERS

DUBIOUS CLAIMS

BEWARE OF MEDICAL CHARLATANS

MEDICAL fraud, also known as quackery, has been a pressing issue for physicians.

The subject has also been addressed widely in ancient Greece, Rome and the Islamic Golden Age. Ishaq al-Ruhawi, a 12th-century physician, wrote *The Practical Ethics of the Physician* which offers practical strategies to prevent and fight medical charlatans whose motivations are driven by fame and money.

Today, it is not much different but has progressed to a greater extent. Quackery promotes health products, services or practices of questionable safety, effectiveness or validity for an intended purpose.

In Malaysia, unscrupulous medical doctors and non-practitioners who commit quackery give the impression that they can cure chronic and incurable illnesses using untested methods. Ironically, those who make dubious medical claims have excelled in building a brand name and promoting their products by taking advantage of new market opportunities.

With the global mental health crisis looming, we hear countless assertions of unknown origin that claim to provide a specific curative alternative treatment.

You may have seen this advertisement on social media: "One in every three Malaysians suffers from depression, which is why you need (name of product)!

"It contains natural ingredients like A, B and C that help to cure anxiety and depression by balancing hormones in your body and has no side effects.

"So do not waste time. Bring out the real happiness in you."

This is just an example. Here, the commercial appeals to the emotions of those who are vulnerable. It taps into the needs of people by offering them the "perfect" solution to their health problems.

To many people, this is convincing and sounds scientific too.

A prominent figure is appointed to promote the product. Perhaps hiring an actor or a religious figure will convince the targeted audience to believe in the effectiveness of the product.

The fact is education and credentials in one area of expertise do not guarantee proficiency in other areas.

The manufacturer may not test this product for its safety and effectiveness. In brief, the product does cheat, and this is the same strategy used by propagators of fake news.

Evidence has suggested that people with severe or chronic illnesses, women and those emotionally vulnerable are prone to use these kind of products.

The argument is not about the individual's right to use what is helpful. It is about feeding misleading information regarding illness and its treatment to specific segments of society who may have difficulty discerning truth from lies.

Essentially, what underlies the whole problem is something that is more pervasive and deeply rooted in society, affecting other life aspects beyond medicine. The question is, who is the reliable expert?

Technology floods people with information, fuelling a surge in narcissistic and misguided intellectual freedom that insists that every opinion on any matter is as good as every other.

Misconceptions about the nature of medical science may contribute to the rejection of unproven alternative therapies.

In many medical fields, the conclusions are probabilistic rather than absolute. Science may provide some explanation for specific matters, however, it has its limits. When people demand prediction with absolute certainty from science, they treat it beyond its function. If this persists, it results in disappointment and rejection.

DR AHMAD NABIL MD ROSLI
Psychiatrist, International Islamic University Malaysia

OCCUPATIONAL ACCIDENTS

Vision Zero to safe workplaces

"VISION Zero" is a strategic mindset that all occupational accidents, injuries or diseases are preventable.

This mindset was initially implemented in Sweden more than two decades ago, as the Swedish authorities wished to totally eliminate road traffic accidents (RTA) among their road users.

In this context, zero fatalities or serious injuries related to RTA were aimed for. Realistically speaking, the zero is an aspiration. The process of achieving Vision Zero is more important than meeting the zero target.

This ambitious zero-accident philosophy often takes time to materialise as multiple contributory factors (such as road conditions, vehicle speeds, driving behaviour or other human factors) typically interact with each other in a complex manner and still lead to the potential loss of precious lives in RTA.

Interdisciplinary collaboration between policymakers, designers, engineers, public health professionals and other key stakeholders (which was not the norm in the past) is heavily emphasised in the Vision Zero plan to tackle this public health problem.

There are three dimensions that Vision Zero touches on: safety, health and wellbeing.

A culture of prevention incorporating these three dimensions at all work levels is desired in any organisation, be it a small- to medium-sized enterprises or an international company.

Nevertheless, it is acknowledged that human beings tend to make errors in their workplace.

Under such circumstances, Vision Zero warrants the proper establishment of an occupational safety and health management system to ensure those inevitable mistakes do not result in the worker's death or serious occupational injuries.

> *There are three dimensions that Vision Zero touches on: safety, health and wellbeing.*

To date, the Vision Zero concept has spread beyond preventing RTA. In fact, it has been pursued by other industries across the world.

For instance, the concept has been successfully introduced in most of the mining, aviation and engineering companies of the G7 countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States).

Although Vision Zero is relatively new, Malaysia can be considered one of the few Southeast Asian countries with the highest number of companies adopting this concept.

In Malaysia, Vision Zero was officially launched in 2019 and is slowly gaining popularity in local settings.

In short, all occupational accidents, injuries or diseases have systemic causes and are preventable if the correct measure is taken in a timely manner. Indeed, the best social security is for employees to remain safe at their workplace.

If you are interested in learning more about Vision Zero, attend the "Towards Vision Zero Conference: Occupational Safety & Health Beyond Pandemic in Hospital" organised by the University Malaya Medical Centre. Visit https://ummctrainings.onpay.my/order/form/twz2022 for more details.

Hopefully, you will be able to apply what you have learned to improve the preventive culture in your own organisation.

DR YAP JUN FAI
DR LIM YIN CHENG
Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Malaya, and Department of Public Health, University Malaya Medical Centre

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Reading a key investment for students

IN today's fast-paced, tech-driven world, English language proficiency correlates with success in education, innovation and employability.

While students' English language proficiency remains a source of contention, should institutes of higher learning be held accountable for improving their English language skills, or should it be the responsibility of other parties in society as a whole?

It is certain that no one will argue against the significance of reading. However, many do not understand how important reading is to student development. How are we responding to the message of inculcating the value of reading, be it physical or virtual, in students at a young age?

"Reading gives us some place to go when we have to stay where we are," says Professor Emeritus Mason Cooley.

Nothing fuels the imagination like reading, but how do we encourage students to read widely to become change-makers and trendsetters?

This should serve as a wake-up call for everyone. Studies show that students who read widely benefit better from what education has to offer.

Reading also keeps a student current. It is one of the most effective investments a student can make to succeed in life.

Reading will help us grow into inspiring people who can apply knowledge to better our lives and the nation.

DR JANICE LO YUEH YEA
Senior lecturer, Faculty of Education, Universiti Malaya

Nothing fuels the imagination like reading. FILE PIC

WORLD MARKETS	FBM KLCI (Sept 12)	STI (Sept 12)	DJIA (Sept 9)	FTSE 100 (Sept 9)	Exchange rate (Sept 12)	Brent Oil
	+1.43 (1,497.96)	+11.77 (3,274.72)	+377.19 (32,151.71)	+89.01 (7,351.07)	US$1=RM4.501	US$93.94* *AT PRESS TIME

BUSINESS

DEBT RESTRUCTURING

THERE MAY BE HOPE YET FOR SAPURA ENERGY

Cash flow improving with contract wins of more than RM3b in last 6 months alone

According to Sapura Energy Bhd's annual reports, it owns the largest fleet of tender assist drilling rigs in the world and operates a large fleet of offshore vessels for transportation and installation.

KUALA LUMPUR

ONCE all but written off, Sapura Energy Bhd now seems to be doing something right.

A year ago, the thought of the oil and gas (O&G) service provider turning a profit was unimaginable.

But if its first quarter results are anything to go by, Sapura Energy seems to be turning a corner.

It had returned to the black in the first quarter ended April 30 with a net profit of RM91.93 million from a net loss of RM97.07 million a year ago.

Bankers acknowledged that Sapura Energy's cash flow was improving thanks to clients who still trusted the company despite its financial condition.

In the past six months, the company announced contract wins worth more than RM3 billion, including renewals from repeat clients.

They included contract extensions for pipe-laying vessels from Petrobras in Brazil, long-term contract for drilling services from PTTEP Thailand, an award for transportation and installation from Hess in Malaysia, and several other wins in the Gulf of Mexico and West Africa.

The company also undertook the sale of its Sapura 3000 vessel to improve its cash position.

Sources previously said Sapura Energy no longer had access to working capital from its banks.

Despite this, industry observers indicated that Sapura Energy's debt restructuring seemed to be making some progress, and the recent news that the Corporate Debt Restructuring Committee had given its nod to mediate the company's debt revamp could only strengthen its turnaround efforts.

An O&G expert said it appeared the current management team was doing everything it could to set the company on the right course.

"If that is indeed the case, it then begs the question: why are there rumours swirling that the company is forced to sell almost all of its assets and businesses?" he asked.

According to banking sources, foreign advisers representing the banks that provided the multi-currency facility (MCF) to Sapura Energy were, to put it crudely, keen to sell the company for parts, killing the potential of a Malaysian entity that continued to do well globally.

The MCF currently stands at a combined value of about RM10.3 billion.

"What is the motivation for wanting Sapura Energy to be carved out since it has made enormous progress to date as a group? Are there vested interests? Are there buyers already lined up?" the expert added.

"Whatever the reason, it seems a shame to sink a viable ship."

But local senior bankers expressed worry that Sapura Energy was taking a little too long to progress its restructuring plan and the management had been reticent in the meantime.

Indeed, Sapura Energy has not been actively engaging with the media or stakeholders, even when there is public outcry over the call for its bailout.

There are also questions about the effectiveness of the company's restructuring advisers, some of whom, according to industry sources, had been replaced since the beginning of the year.

According to reports, Sapura Energy had already paid the banks over RM17 billion in principal repayments, interest and fees over the last eight years.

Financial analysts indicated that the company would be paying the MCF banks close to RM500 million per year in interest alone until 2027.

Sapura Energy also owes its more than 3,000 vendors around RM1.5 billion.

According to its annual reports, Sapura Energy owns the largest fleet of tender assist drilling rigs in the world and operates a large fleet of offshore vessels for transportation and installation.

It also holds about one-third of the market share in Malaysia for offshore major maintenance, including platforms and subsea facilities.

CHINA'S GREATER BAY AREA

'Malaysia will attract investments by staying true to green vision'

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia, given its importance within the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as well as Asean, has much to gain in investments from China's Greater Bay Area (GBA).

The GBA refers to the Chinese government's plan to link the cities of Hong Kong, Macau, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Zhongshan, Dongguan, Huizhou, Jiangmen and Zhaoqing into an integrated economic and business hub.

Speaking at the Petronas Experience Ventures event yesterday, pan-Asian venture capital firm Gobi Partners co-founder and chairman Thomas G. Tsao said over the next 10 years, a significant amount of investments coming out of China would be from the GBA.

"The global image of China as the manufacturer of low quality products has clouded over the fact that the country is currently the largest producer of research papers across various segments and expertise in the world.

"In fact, China has been funding research and development and this investment would substantially grow over time.

"China is not only looking at manufacturing products any more. Now, it is looking at clean and green areas of investments such as artificial intelligence, financial technology, health tech, Fourth Industrial Revolution sustainability and Web 3," Tsao added.

The government has articulated its vision for Malaysia to become a carbon-neutral nation by 2050 and is, thus, a prime contender to be a recipient or partner of investments from the GBA.

"Malaysia's positioning within Asean and BRI, as well as the diversity of its people, are attractive to GBA investors as well as those from the Silicon Valley in the United States.

"Malaysia stands to gain a lot of investments as long as it remains neutral and steadfast to its green-friendly vision," he said.

Founded in 2002, Gobi Partners has raised 15 funds with US$1.5 billion of assets under management, invested in over 320 startups and also nurtured nine unicorns.

RELOCATING TO MENARA MERDEKA 118

'NO HURRY TO SELL MENARA MAYBANK'

Lender inks master lessor deal with PNB for building in Jalan Tun Perak

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MALAYAN Banking Bhd (Maybank), which is relocating its corporate head office to PNB-owned Menara Merdeka 118, sees no urgency in selling Menara Maybank in Jalan Tun Perak, here, as it is focused on renting and maintaining the office building.

Group president and chief executive officer (CEO) Datuk Khairussaleh Ramli said yesterday Maybank had entered into an agreement with Permodalan Nasional Bhd (PNB), with the latter becoming the master lessor of Menara Maybank.

"We do not have any urgency to sell (Menara Maybank). What is important for us is there will be people who will rent this place," he said after a signing ceremony between Maybank and PNB.

"We have entered into a lease agreement with PNB for it to become the master lessor. Hence, we can generate yields based on the asset," he added.

The lender also signed a tenancy agreement with PNB for Merdeka 118, with an initial term of three years, and a renewal for a further six terms of three years per term.

As the anchor tenant of Menara Merdeka 118, Maybank has been offered naming and signage rights over the building, which will enhance its brand visibility.

He said the bank had yet to decide on the name for the tower.

"Of course, we will have to seek approvals from the authorities."

PNB president and group CEO Ahmad Zulqarnain Onn said Menara Merdeka 118 had secured an occupancy rate of 73 per cent.

The building is on track for completion by year end.

Malayan Banking Bhd group president and chief executive officer (CEO) Datuk Khairussaleh Ramli (left) exchanging documents with Permodalan Nasional Bhd president and group CEO Ahmad Zulqarnain Onn at the signing ceremony yesterday. PIC BY AZIAH AZMEE

CARGO-ONLY FLEET

Teleport to add 3 Airbus freighters

KUALA LUMPUR: Teleport, the logistics venture of Capital A Bhd, is expanding its fleet with the addition of three Airbus A321 freighters.

These new additions will increase Teleport's cargo-only fleet to four.

Teleport chief executive officer Pete Chareonwongsak said this was a strategic move to complement the company's exclusive AirAsia passenger belly planes with a freighter network to reinforce its increased capacity for key markets such as China and India and into Asean.

He said the combined fleet approach with multi-hub freighter and belly operations would give it a unique network advantage in this region.

"E-commerce continues to be the main force propelling air cargo growth around the region and here at Teleport, especially with key growth in segments like international cross-border e-commerce and express shipping."

The three A321s will be operated by AirAsia and delivered in stages starting in the first quarter of next year.

These freighters will strengthen Teleport's cargo network and address the diversifying demand in Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region. Each A321 freighter, leased from BBAM Limited Partnership, can carry up to 27 tonnes of cargo per flight.

Teleport head of commercial cargo Francis Anthony said these freighters would create an added availability of skidded cargo capacity for key markets such as China, allowing the company to load prepacked, larger cargoes securely.

> *This allows Teleport the agility to take advantage of each hub-country's unique geographical strengths and air traffic rights and cater to every possible dimension of regional demand.*
>
> **PETE CHAREONWONGSAK**
> Teleport chief executive officer

He said these three freighters would be seamlessly positioned across key markets such as Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines and Indonesia through the AirAsia network.

"This allows Teleport the agility to take advantage of each hub-country's unique geographical strengths and air traffic rights and cater to every possible dimension of regional demand.

"Coupled with our extensive network of narrow and wide-body passenger planes in the region, our service offering will put us in a unique position to better serve more segments in the market," he added.

Teleport currently has the largest cargo network with the widest destination coverage in Southeast Asia.

THE LANGKASUKA DEVELOPMENT

Widad Builders awarded RM40m Langkawi contract

KUALA LUMPUR: Widad Business Group (WBG), through wholly owned subsidiary Langkasuka Land Sdn Bhd (LLSB), has awarded a RM40 million contract to Widad Builders Sdn Bhd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Widad Group Bhd (WGB), to carry out earthworks and construction for The Langkasuka.

This contract is part of Phase 1 — with a gross development value of RM4.45 billion — of the master development plan of The Langkasuka.

The contract consists of site clearance and earthworks, retaining walls, environmental protection and any associated work that is crucial for completing The Langkasuka.

The project will commence on Sept 22, with the expected completion date of July 22, next year.

WBG founder and group executive chairman Tan Sri Ikmal Opat Abdullah said The Langkasuka was one of its biggest projects.

"The Langkasuka is a unique project that is expected to reshape Langkawi as the preferred destination for international and local tourists while pushing its property scene to greater heights.

"Besides enjoying the benefits of the tourism industry, the project will also bring in added value such as job creation and boost the economic activities of Langkawi," he said in a statement yesterday.

The mixed-use development is spread across 809.4ha of man-made islands and will be developed in two phases over 15 years.

The first phase will consist of an international standard and tournament-ready golf course, lush villas and resort homes.

On the retail side, there will be a shopping mall named Designers' Brand Mall, a shopping bazaar called The Langkasuka Village, a five-star hotel with a seafront view of the Andaman sea as well as high-end condominiums.

11 SEN TARGET PRICE

'BUY' RATING ON VELESTO REAFFIRMED

2023 shaping up to be a strong year, driven by improvement in demand, charter rates

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AFFIN Hwang Capital expects a strong profit turnaround in the second half of the year for Velesto Energy Bhd on the back of a higher capacity utilisation.

The research firm said the drilling market outlook had turned more favourable compared to a quarter ago with demand and charter rates on the rise.

Barring any unforeseen disruptions, it said Velesto should end the year with a 59 per cent utilisation.

"The management is also sticking to its bullish tone as it expects utilisation to rise close to 80 per cent next year from our existing 65 per cent assumption.

"Velesto has locked in roughly 18 per cent utilisation so far, with most of the potential contracts being under negotiations."

Affin Hwang said the estimated higher 72 per cent rig utilisation in the second half, above Velesto's 60 per cent break-even level, should lead to a strong profit turnaround and significantly narrow the full-year losses.

It said 2023 was shaping up to be a strong recovery year, driven by an improvement in rig demand and charter rates.

"We reaffirm our 'buy' rating on Velesto with a target price of 11 sen.

"We see value emerging and believe the current share price has not factored in the improving drilling market outlook."

Affin Hwang Capital says Velesto Energy Bhd has so far locked in roughly 18 per cent utilisation for its drilling rigs next year, with most of the potential contracts being under negotiations.

Berjaya Corporation Bhd (BCorp) joint group chief executive officer (CEO) Syed Ali Shahul Hameed (second from left) with VDart Malaysia Sdn Bhd CEO Syed Sayeed Ahmed (second from right) after a memorandum of understanding signing ceremony recently. With them are BCorp chairman Tan Sri Vincent Tan and VDart managing director Mohamed Irfan Peeran (right).

BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY

BCorp, VDart enter into technology-driven tie-up

KUALA LUMPUR: Berjaya Corp Bhd (BCorp) has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with VDart Malaysia Sdn Bhd (VDart) to explore and evaluate technology business opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region.

BCorp joint group chief executive officer (CEO) Syed Ali Shahul Hameed said the MoU would enable both parties to embark on a strategic partnership in expanding the technology business.

He said this would be done by leveraging cutting-edge products based on the blockchain technology.

"We are looking to expand our digital and technology portfolio in the coming years to further strengthen our consumer-related offerings.

"Technology is the catalyst for change and growth.

"This MoU with VDart will accelerate our vision towards becoming a global consumer group," he said.

The MoU was signed by Syed Ali and VDart CEO Syed Sayeed Ahmed, and witnessed by BCorp chairman Tan Sri Vincent Tan and VDart managing director Mohamed Irfan Peeran.

WEEK ENDED SEPT 9

Foreign funds snap 7-week buying streak with RM42.5m net outflow

KUALA LUMPUR: Foreign funds recorded a net outflow of RM42.49 million for the week ended Sept 9 to end a seven-week buying streak.

MIDF Research said in its weekly fund flow report foreign investors were net sellers from Monday to Thursday before turning net buyers on Friday.

The bulk of the net outflow was on Tuesday and Wednesday at RM42.18 million and RM45.72 million, respectively.

MIDF Research said local institutions net bought RM91.29 million last week after being net sellers for eight consecutive weeks, with net buying from Monday to Thursday.

"The bulk of the net buying was on Tuesday and Wednesday at RM59.26 million and RM51.36 million, respectively.

"However, they turned net sellers on Friday with RM25.39 million."

For local retailers, they turned net sellers last week with RM48.81 million after four weeks of net buying.

MIDF Research said the top three sectors with net outflows by foreign investors were industrial products and services at RM121.8 million, plantation at RM35.7 million and healthcare at RM34.6 million.

The top three sectors with net inflows were construction with RM69.2 million, telecommunication with RM47.9 million and utilities with RM25.1 million.

"To date, international funds have been net buyers for 24 out of the 36 weeks of this year with a year-to-date inflow of RM8.11 billion. Local institutions were net sellers for 28 out of the 36 weeks with a total net outflow of RM9.90 billion.

"Local retailers have been net buyers for 23 out of the first 36 weeks of this year with a net inflow of RM1.79 billion."

In terms of participation, there was a decline in average daily trade value across the board, led by foreign investors at 41.5 per cent, retailers at 13 per cent and local institutions at 8.26 per cent, MIDF Research added.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTOR

HAVAS INKS AFFILIATION DEAL WITH INVICTUS BLUE

Partnership will tap immense growth potential in region, says global group

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HAVAS Group, one of the world's largest global communications groups, has signed a partnership agreement with Invictus Blue, a leading communications agency in Malaysia.

Havas chairman and chief executive officer (CEO) for Nordics, Central and Eastern Europe and Middle East, Southeast Asia and North Asia Alberto Canteli said in a statement Invictus Blue's experience in media and non-media services was in line with Havas' "village" concept.

"Havas decided to enter into this affiliation agreement after reviewing Invictus Blue's impeccable track record in Malaysia.

"The company deeply understands local cultures and nuances and has a global outlook. As a result, Havas has found a formidable local partner to tap the immense growth potential in the region," he said.

Invictus Blue has also announced the appointment of Tan Sri Norza Zakaria as chairman, in a move that will further bolster the company as a formidable player in the local communications industry.

Invictus Blue CEO Gerald Mirand said the partnership with Havas and the appointment of Norza marked a new era for the company.

"We are delighted to be affiliated with Havas, one of the world's most forward-looking agency groups today. And having Norza as chairman will enhance this synergy.

"As president of the Olympic Council of Malaysia, Norza has his pulse on the sporting environment in Malaysia and will help leverage sports in the communications arena, which is a huge trend worldwide."

Norza is currently executive chairman and president of public-listed Citaglobal Bhd and Tiza Global Sdn Bhd.

The chartered accountant also sits on the board of AirAsia Aviation Group Ltd.

(From the left) Airasia Academy director of strategy and innovation Dr Ram Gopal Raj, Yayasan Chow Kit founder Datuk Dr Hartini Zainuddin and Jom Tuisyen founder Sunny Yee at a community outreach programme in Kuala Lumpur recently.

COLLABORATION

Affordable, accessible education opportunities via e-learning

KUALA LUMPUR: Airasia Academy is exploring a collaboration with Yayasan Chow Kit (YCK) by leveraging the comprehensive offerings of e-learning platform Jom Tuisyen.

Airasia Academy aims to make education affordable and accessible for marginalised communities.

"Since day one, we have always been about democratising education so students can choose and manage their learning," said director of strategy and innovation Dr Ram Gopal Raj in a statement.

"Through this partnership with YCK and Jom Tuisyen, we can do much more."

During a community outreach programme recently, Raj gave a demonstration on Airasia Academy's on-demand learning platform under the guidance of YCK educators.

YCK founder Datuk Dr Hartini Zainuddin said YCK had provided education in many forms to children who deserved so much more.

"With multiple hours on school days and some nights of extra classes being run by our diligent teaching staff, there is a significant improvement in growth given their ability to progress their learning in and out of class.

"This is truly the step we at YCK have been looking for towards a sustainable and reliable tool for delivering a quality education to children."

Jom Tuisyen founder Sunny Yee said combining Jom Tuisyen's resources as well as experience in delivering good learning content would accelerate the process of building foundational understanding in core and elective subjects.

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE WEEK

Berjaya Sompo partners with Aiesec in UM to organise composting workshop

KUALA LUMPUR: Berjaya Sompo Insurance Bhd has continued its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative with the "DIY Composting Workshop", held in collaboration with Aiesec in Universiti Malaya's (UM) "Clean Our Plate" project.

The workshop was held in conjunction with Berjaya Sompo's Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Week.

"Clean Our Plate" is a semi-annual Malaysian youth volunteer project focusing on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 12 to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Project director Naqib al-Hussaini said: "We believe by collaborating with Berjaya Sompo, the impact of our project can be amplified and more awareness can be created among the community."

As a youth-run organisation, Aiesec in UM said it was grateful to be given such an opportunity by Berjaya Sompo.

This virtual workshop aimed to educate Berjaya Sompo's staff on food waste awareness and home composting.

A total of 160 Berjaya Sompo employees gained insight through interactive activities such as online quiz sessions during the workshop.

Meanwhile, the workshop for Berjaya Sompo's staff was also an initiative to develop Aiesec in UM members' skills.

"According to SWCorp Malaysia, the household sector accounts for 44.5 per cent of the 16,667.5 tonnes of food waste generated in Malaysia daily. To curb this problem and raise awareness among the community of food wastage, Berjaya Sompo was pleased to support Aiesec in UM's initiative.

"This initiative was part of the company's ESG Week event to encourage our team to play an active role in climate change," said Berjaya Sompo chief executive officer Tan Sek Kee. **Bernama**

BROUGHT TO YOU BY LIFE & TIMES

HEAL

Let them play

Play is the primary way kids learn, so let them explore, writes **Meera Murugesan**

Interactive play with a toy is the highest level of play.

Toy variety is beneficial but too many at the same time can be distracting.

PLAY comes naturally to children. Any parent would attest to that. More importantly, children will find opportunities to play with anything.

When my daughter was a toddler, I would plonk her at the table with a basketful of my make-up and toiletries. She would spend a good hour examining each bottle or jar, rearranging and stacking them up in different ways, and talking out loud as she did so, completely absorbed in the activity.

Sometimes, I would let her play with a pail of water (supervised, of course) and a couple of paper cups, and she would be fully occupied, filling the cups and pouring water from one cup to another, thoroughly enjoying herself.

As she grew, feather dusters became magic wands, shawls turned into superhero capes and blankets morphed into mysterious secret caves.

Despite being an only child, I find that she can play happily on her own if she has the right tools or toys, but throw another child into the mix and it's always better.

Play is an essential component in early childhood development and it shapes the way a child grows.

Dr Charlotte Jane Joseph says play is crucial in the learning process and it brings together both sides of the brain — the logical and the creative.

ENRICHING A CHILD

The best kind of play is one that enriches a child, is joyful and helps push the child to the next developmental stage, says Dr Charlotte Jane Joseph, developmental paediatrician at Hospital Tunku Azizah.

But playtime should take place in the right environment, she adds.

"You don't put a child somewhere and then constantly say don't touch that or don't do that. It has to be a 'Yes' rather than a 'No' environment," says Dr Charlotte.

Speaking at the launch of the Fisher-Price Play Lab Pop Up in Sunway Pyramid, she explains that play is crucial in the learning process and it brings together both sides of the brain — the logical and the creative.

This has been backed by neuroscience studies which show that joint interactive play with a doll literally "lights up" different parts of the brain.

The first five years of life are the golden years when there's rapid brain development. So play is crucial at this stage. In fact, zero screen time and more play is best for children under 5 years old.

Play has multiple benefits for toddlers and children.

Dr Charlotte says putting a young child in front of the screen to keep him or her occupied is the lowest level of play while the highest level is interactive play with a doll or toy. Each toy is actually an educational tool.

"Parents often think 'I've given my child a tablet or device to play with and he's happy' but that is not play."

Dr Charlotte adds that today, we are seeing an increasing number of children with speech delay, both in Malaysia and in other countries, because very young children are spending too much time alone in front of the screen.

Dr Woo Pei Jun says play allows children to build confidence and it facilitates social, emotional, physical and cognitive development.

Sunway University head of the department of psychology, Dr Woo Pei Jun, agrees.

She explains that play gives children the opportunity to learn about the world. It is their way of figuring out how the world works.

Through play, children indirectly improve motor skills, learn language, are exposed to colours and numbers, learn how to be independent, make decisions or solve problems.

"Play is amazing. It allows children to build confidence and it facilitates social, emotional, physical and cognitive development."

THE POWER OF PLAY

Dr Charlotte says parents often underestimate the power of play even though it has multiple, long-term benefits. Play starts the moment a child is born. It's an innate phenomenon in a child. Every child knows how to play.

"Play starts at home and the best play for a child is playing with a parent because it fosters good relationships. It binds the family together," she says.

It's important for parents to make time for play. At different ages, there are different types of play and parents have to be tuned in to their child's needs and work from there.

Woo agrees. Select age-appropriate toys and activities for children, she says. More importantly, as parents, be fully focused and involved with your children during play.

Do not allow distractions such as phones. Children are well aware when adults are not paying attention or fully involved, she stresses.

"As parents, it's important that you create a safe space that supports play and also lets them explore the world."

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FAST FACTS

- Different types of play have different benefits so keep it varied.
- Reduce screen time, increase playtime.
- Talk to your child, describe what he or she is doing as you play together.
- Be involved in your child's play but let him or her take the lead.
- Toy variety is beneficial as it builds curiosity and develop creativity.
- Too many toys at the same time are distracting and don't let the child focus.
- Consider rotating toys so children remain engaged and interested.
- Keep it fun and let learning take place naturally.

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The marathon classic

One well-known running shoe is still going strong in its 29th iteration, writes **Syida Lizta Amirul Ihsan**

Tried & Tested

I MAY not remember all the running shoe models I have worn over the years, but the Asics Gel-Kayano will always have a special place in my mind.

In 2012, when I was preparing to run the 42km Singapore Standard Chartered Marathon, I bought the shoe, Asics Gel-Kayano 18, and trained in the pair every day.

From 10km to my longest training run at 35km, it was with me day in and day out until I felt comfortable in them.

I completed that run, took a break from running and never ran in the model again because I wanted to try other shoes.

Two months ago, in conjunction with the 29th iteration of the classic shoe loved by marathoners and long-distance road runners, Asics Malaysia sent me a pair and it felt like rekindling an old love story.

The Asics Gel-Kayano 29 is the 29th iteration of Asics' beloved marathon distance shoe.

NO INTRODUCTION NECESSARY

When it comes to new shoes, it's always best to break it in with a short run of 5km to 7km, but the Asics Gel-Kayano is not just any other shoe. So one morning as I did my run in preparation for my half marathon, I wore it for a 15km run.

The shoe felt very familiar. The landing is stable, just as I remembered it so the running motion is seamless. The outer sole may be too heavy for some runners, but if you are going long distance, it will help you finish the race without excruciating knee pain.

Both the gel and the foam help keep runs stable and comfortable. And while this version's gel is lesser compared with its predecessors, the Asics FF Blast Plus foam in the upper midsole layer helps balance the shoe so it's still good if you are looking for a stability running shoe.

My run felt rather heavy for the first 5km because I am not accustomed to the shoe, but all the way from 5km to the end, it was a familiar, comfortable run.

It really didn't feel like I am wearing this pair for the first time.

The women's shoe colourway is gorgeous.

SHOE IMPROVEMENT

Some things have improved with this new model, notably its toe box. Gel-Kayano is known for being slim and if you have wide foot, this could pose a problem as your foot will brush against the inside of the shoe and this might lead to painful blisters.

This one comes with a wider toe box. Your toes can wiggle in the shoe and blisters are no longer a problem.

The shoe is also 10g lighter than its predecessor and now comes with the Litetruss technology to improve the shoe's renowned stability. It helps keep the wearer's foot from rolling too far inward during each stride, ensuring protection over long training runs and marathons.

Asics performance running footwear manager for product development, Kenji Hirata, says the brand takes huge pride in the Gel-Kayano, which through hard work and technology, has long had a reputation for being at the forefront of stability.

"As we focus on helping everyone to experience the power of sport on the body and mind in 2022, the shoe is a stable training partner that can support any running routine, to help everyone achieve a sound mind in a sound body," he says.

I love the women's version colourway too, in black background with a gradation of blue, pink and purple. It's a cool combo that can take you from runs to the mall, but if you are anything like me, you'd not want to waste a running shoe mileage by not running in them.

The Gel-Kayano 29 is now on my shoe rack for runs. I love the comfort and stability it delivers, and even though it can be heavy for speed work and sprints, it can help take you to a distance you wish to attempt as long as you train your body for it.

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Running and resilience

EDWARD Wong was born with imperfect hearing in both ears, which slowly deteriorated until he completely lost his hearing.

Wong did not let this hold him back. Today, he is not only a university student, but also an accomplished swimmer, avid runner, talented watercolour illustrator and artist, and has even acquired his driver's licence.

Everything that people told him he would not be able to do, he has pulled off.

Wong is part of the Humans of Hoka series presented by Hoka, which showcases the resiliency of the human spirit. It features real runners in real communities, hard at work motivating themselves and the world around them.

Of all the things he has achieved, Wong is ecstatic to be able to enjoy sports, especially running and swimming. His favourite running shoes brand is Hoka as he can relate to the brand's philosophy for runners of all abilities to experience joy, optimism and limitless possibilities.

"Hoka enabled people like me to feel inclusive as part of a community and empowered me to believe that I can do anything. I am not a deaf person running when I am in Hoka shoes, I am just Edward Wong."

More interesting stories from Humans of Hoka can be found at www.hoka.com/en/gb/humans-of-hoka.html

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Of all the things he has achieved, Edward Wong is ecstatic to be able to enjoy sports, especially running and swimming.

In Brief

Compiled by Meera Murugesan

FOR MENTAL WELLNESS

Digital mental health platform, ThoughtFull, and AIA Malaysia partnered to provide AIA corporate customers with end-to-end mental health support as part of the AIA Corporate Solutions portfolio.

This marks the first collaboration between a mental health platform and an insurance provider within Asia that will empower organisations to support their employees' mental wellbeing with timely, personalised mental health resources, above and beyond insurance coverage for mental health conditions.

CLEAN HANDS

To instil good handwashing habits among young children, Japanese hand soap brand, Kirei Kirei, conducted a hand hygiene programme for primary school students in the Klang Valley in the last few months.

Over 4,000 children benefited from the programme and RM50,000 worth of products were contributed to participating schools. Handwashing is an effective method to prevent the spread of diseases. It's an easy, economical and effective way to remove germs, prevent the spread of germs to others and avoid getting sick.

ENJOY HEALTH BENEFITS

The Stay Healthy with Watsons drive encourages all Malaysians to adopt a healthy diet and active lifestyle in managing their day-to-day activities.

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WORLD

'EXAMPLE OF SELFLESS DUTY'

KING CHARLES: I'LL FOLLOW QUEEN'S EXAMPLE

New monarch makes first address to Parliament

King Charles III addressing Parliament at the Palace of Westminster, London, yesterday. AFP PIX

EDINBURGH

KING Charles told Parliament yesterday he was "resolved faithfully to follow" the example set by his mother, Queen Elizabeth, addressing lawmakers and peers in what he described as the "the living and breathing instrument of our democracy".

At a ceremony at Westminster Hall, the oldest building on the parliamentary estate, Charles used his address to the upper and lower houses of Parliament to pay tribute to his mother and to pledge to uphold the principle of constitutional government.

"While very young, her late majesty pledged herself to serve her country and her people and to maintain the precious principles of constitutional government which lie at the heart of our nation.

"This vow she kept with unsurpassed devotion," he told lawmakers and peers.

"She set an example of selfless duty, which, with God's help and your counsel, I am resolved faithfully to follow.

"As Shakespeare says of the earlier Queen Elizabeth, she was 'a pattern to all princes living'."

The queen died at home on Thursday, triggering a period of national mourning when tens of thousands of Britons are expected to pay tribute to her.

The ceremony at Westminster Hall, when the speakers of the House of Lords and House of Commons offered their sympathies to the new king, Charles also paid tribute to Parliament as "the living and breathing instrument of our democracy".

"As I stand before you today, I cannot help but feel the weight of history which surrounds us, and which reminds us of the vital parliamentary traditions, to which members of both Houses dedicate yourselves with such personal commitment for the betterment of us all."

After meeting lawmakers in Parliament in London yesterday, King Charles was expected to fly to Edinburgh to join his siblings in a solemn procession when the coffin of Queen Elizabeth is taken to the city's historic cathedral.

He was also expected to join senior royals for a vigil at St Giles' Cathedral where the coffin will lie at rest before being flown to London today.

Since Elizabeth's death aged 96 at Balmoral Castle, her Scottish holiday home, a choreographed series of plans to mourn Britain's monarch of 70 years has been put into operation.

In his first public comment since her death, Prince Harry paid an emotional tribute to his "granny" yesterday, saying she would be sorely missed not just by the family, but the world over.

"Granny, while this final parting brings us great sadness, I am forever grateful for all of our first meetings, from my earliest childhood memories with you, to meeting you for the first time as my commander-in-chief, to the first moment you met my darling wife and hugged your beloved great grandchildren.

"We, too, smile knowing that you and grandpa are reunited now, and both together in peace," Harry said, a reference to Elizabeth's husband of 73 years, Prince Philip, who died last year.

On Sunday, her oak coffin, draped in the Royal Standard of Scotland with a wreath on top, was taken by hearse on a six-hour journey from Balmoral through picturesque Scottish countryside, villages, small towns and cities to Edinburgh.

Tens of thousands of well-wishers lined the roads to pay their last respects, while huge crowds, some in tears, gathered in Edinburgh to greet the cortege.

"I think when the queen's coffin emerged from Balmoral Castle yesterday, it was a moment of enormous significance," John Swinney, Scotland's deputy first minister, told BBC radio.

"And I think people drew breath, because what we've all been living through over the last few days suddenly became real."

Charles was expected to mount a vigil at 7.20pm (1820 GMT) along with other royals.

Today, the coffin will be flown to London where tomorrow, it will begin a period of lying in state until Sept 19, the day of Elizabeth's state funeral, on a catafalque at Westminster Hall.

It will be guarded by soldiers or by Yeoman Warders, known as beefeaters, from the Tower Of London.

Members of the public will be allowed to process past the coffin, which will be covered by the Royal Standard with the sovereign's Orb and Sceptre placed on top, for 24 hours a day until 6.30am on Sept 19.

"Those wishing to attend will be required to queue for many hours, possibly overnight," the government said.

"Large crowds are expected and people are encouraged to check ahead, plan accordingly and be prepared for long wait times."

Thousands of people are continuing to gather at royal palaces across Britain, bringing flowers.

In Green Park near London's Buckingham Palace, where some of the tributes are being taken, long lines of bouquets snake around the park allowing mourners to read the tributes. **Agencies**

Police officers standing on duty ahead of the royal procession, on the Royal Mile in Edinburgh yesterday.

West to ramp up arms supplies to Ukraine

WASHINGTON: Western governments are mobilising their arms manufacturers to ramp up production and replenish stockpiles heavily diminished by supplying Ukraine's six-month-old battle against Russia's invasion.

United States defence secretary Lloyd Austin announced this week a meeting of senior national armaments directors from allied countries to make long-term plans for supplying Ukraine and rebuilding their own arms reserves.

"They will discuss how our defence industrial bases can best equip Ukraine's future forces with the capabilities that they need," he said at Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany.

On Friday, the Pentagon's arms acquisition chief, Bill LaPlante, said the meeting would take place in Brussels on Sept 28.

The goal is to determine "how we can continue to work together to ramp up production of key capabilities and resolve supply chain issues and increase interoperability and interchangeability of our systems," LaPlante said.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) countries do not all have the same weapons, but their arms are compatible. So ammunition manufactured in one country in the Atlantic alliance can be used by another.

At the start of the war, Ukraine's military mostly used weapons and munitions that matched Russian standards. But within a few months those were exhausted, especially in crucial artillery and missile systems, and it has grown to depend on Western allies with Nato-standard arms. **AFP**

IN A DAY

20 SETTLEMENTS RECAPTURED, SAYS UKRAINE

Ukraine troops sweep ahead after Russian collapse in northeast

KYIV

UKRAINIAN forces swept further across territory seized from fleeing Russian troops yesterday, as Moscow grappled with the consequences of the collapse of its occupation force in northeastern Ukraine.

Ukraine's general staff said early yesterday that its forces had recaptured more than 20 towns and villages in just the past day, after Russia acknowledged it was abandoning Izium, its main stronghold in northeastern Ukraine.

"Taking them under full control and stabilisation measures are being carried out," the general staff said of the newly recaptured settlements.

As thousands of Russian troops abandoned their positions, leaving behind huge stocks of ammunition and equipment, Russia fired missiles at power stations on Sunday causing blackouts in the Kharkiv and adjacent Poltava and Sumy regions.

Ukraine denounced what it described as retaliation against civilian targets for its military advances. By yesterday morning, Reuters journalists in Kharkiv said the power was back on, although the water was not yet working.

The regional governor said power had been restored by 80 per cent. Moscow, which denies deliberately striking civilian targets, did not comment.

Firefighters battling a blaze after a rocket fired by Russian troops hit an infrastructure facility in Kharkiv, Ukraine, on Sunday. EPA PIC

Britain's Defence Ministry said Russia had probably ordered its forces to withdraw from all of Kharkiv region west of the Oskil River, abandoning the main supply route that had sustained Russia's operations in the east.

Kyiv, which reached the Oskil when it seized the railway hub city of Kupiansk on Saturday, suggested Russia was already falling even further back: the Ukrainian general staff said Russian troops had abandoned Svatove in Luhansk province, around 20km east of the Oskil.

The British Defence Ministry said Moscow's forces were struggling to bring reserves to the frontline in the south, where Ukraine has launched a big advance in Kherson province aiming to isolate thousands of Russian soldiers on the west bank of the Dnipro River.

"The majority of the (Russian) force in Ukraine is highly likely being forced to prioritise emergency defensive actions," the British update said.

"The rapid Ukrainian successes have significant implications for Russia's operational design."

Ukraine's swiftest advance since driving Russian forces away from the capital in March has turned the tide in the six-month war, unravelling in a matter of days swathes of the gains Moscow had achieved in months of costly fighting in the east.

Ukrainian chief commander General Valeriy Zaluzhnyi said his troops had retaken more than 3,000sq km this month, advancing to within 50km of the border with Russia.

Further Russian retreats, especially east of the Oskil, could soon put Ukrainian forces in position to attack territory that Russia and its local proxies had held since 2014. **Reuters**

PM'S TERM-LIMIT ISSUE

Poll shows Thais favour dissolution of Parliament, early election

BANGKOK: More than 60 per cent of Thais want the government to dissolve Parliament and call an early election, according to a recent opinion poll, as the country's Constitutional Court considers the future of suspended Prime Minister Prayuth Chan o Cha.

Prayuth, 68, was suspended from duty by the court last month over a petition filed by the main opposition Pheu Thai party that argued Prayuth's time spent as head of a military junta after a 2014 coup should count towards his constitutionally stipulated eight-year term limit.

The suspension left Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan as the country's acting leader, while Prayuth remains in the cabinet as defence minister.

The survey of 1,312 people conducted between Sept 5 to 7 by the National Institute of Development Administration found 63.8 per cent strongly agreed Prawit should dissolve Parliament and call an early election, while 13.95 per cent strongly disagreed.

According to the constitution, Thailand's next election is due by May of 2023, but the election could happen earlier if Parliament is dissolved.

Prayuth ruled as head of a military junta after staging a coup in 2014 when he was the army chief.

He became a civilian prime minister in 2019, following an election held under a 2017 military-drafted constitution in which an eight-year limit for a prime minister was set.

The court has not yet set a date for its final ruling but has asked Prayuth and those involved in the dispute to submit evidence in the case. **Reuters**

IN BRIEF

Japan to waive tourist visa requirements

TOKYO: Japan's government is planning to waive tourist visa requirements from some countries as part of a further easing of border controls enacted to stop the spread of Covid-19, Fuji News Network reported yesterday. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida may decide as early as this week on the easing, which would also allow individual travellers to visit Japan without travel agency bookings, FNN reported. Japan did not require tourist visas for 68 countries and regions before the pandemic.

Brussels bombing accused refuses trial

DUBAI: French Salah Abdeslam, 32, already jailed for his role in the 2015 Paris attacks, refused to take the stand yesterday on the first day of the trial for the 2016 suicide bombings in Brussels. "The way in which you are treating us is unfair," he told the presiding judge, leaving the dock a few minutes after the start of the first hearing in the trial. Nine alleged members of the Islamic State group cell that launched both the March 2016 suicide bombings in Belgium and the November 2015 attacks in Paris face terrorism charges.

PNG quake toll rises to seven

PORT MORESBY: The death toll from a massive earthquake in Papua New Guinea rose to seven yesterday and is expected to grow as rescuers begin to reach remote landslide-hit communities. Police Commissioner David Manning said the victims of Sunday's 7.6-magnitude quake had been found across the central north of the country, where there is widespread damage to homes and infrastructure. "The tremors caused damage to buildings and public road," he said, adding that "a number of landslides were triggered". **Agencies**

U.N. REPORT

'50M PEOPLE STUCK IN MODERN SLAVERY'

Nearly 1 in every 150 people in the world in forced labour, forced marriage

GENEVA

FIFTY million people around the world are trapped in forced labour or forced marriage, the United Nations (UN) said yesterday, warning that their ranks had swelled dramatically in recent years.

The UN had set a goal to eradicate modern slavery by 2030, but instead the number of people caught up in forced labour or forced marriage ballooned by 10 million between 2016 and 2021, according to a new report.

The study, by the UN's agencies for labour and migration along with the Walk Free Foundation, found that at the end of last year, 28 million people were in forced labour, while 22 million were living in a marriage they had been forced into.

That means nearly one out of every 150 people in the world are caught up in modern forms of slavery, the report said.

"It is shocking that the situation of modern slavery is not improving," Guy Ryder, head of the International Labour Organisation, said.

"Nothing can justify the persistence of this fundamental abuse of human rights."

The Covid-19 pandemic, which worsened conditions and swelled debt levels for many workers, has heightened the risk, the report found.

Coupled with the effects of climate change and armed conflicts, it has contributed to "unprecedented disruption to employment and education, increases in extreme poverty and forced and unsafe migration", compounding the threat, it said.

It is a long-term problem, the report cautioned, with estimates indicating entrapment in forced labour can last years and forced marriage is often "a life sentence".

Women and children are by far the most vulnerable.

Children account for one out of five people in forced labour, with more than half of them stuck in commercial sexual exploitation, the report said.

Migrant workers are meanwhile more than three times more likely to be in forced labour than non-migrant adult workers, it showed.

"This report underscores the urgency of ensuring that all migration is safe, orderly, and regular," Antonio Vitorino, head of the International Organisation for Migration, said.

Modern slavery is present in basically every country, with more than half of cases of forced labour and a quarter of forced marriages in upper-middle income or high-income countries.

The report found that the number of people — mainly women and girls — stuck in forced marriages had risen by 6.6 million since the last global estimates in 2016.

The number of people in forced labour swelled by 2.7 million over the same period. **AFP**

END OF THAILAND'S MERIT-MAKING RITUAL

People removing food that was placed on a stage during the Tham Boon Duan Sib festival, a Buddhist merit-making ritual at the end of Thailand's 10th lunar month for deceased relatives and loved ones, in Narathiwat on Sunday. AFP PIC

COP27

Egypt creates 'climate of fear' for green groups

BEIRUT: The Egyptian government has severely restricted environmental groups' work, leaving activists fearful of publicly scrutinising authorities ahead of the country hosting a crucial global climate summit, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said yesterday.

The United Nations' annual Conference of the Parties (COP) involves nearly 200 countries, with hundreds of observers, non-governmental organisations and — very often — mass demonstrations designed to ramp up the pressure on political leaders to tackle climate change.

Egypt will host this year's event, COP27, in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh in November.

"The Egyptian government has imposed arbitrary funding, research, and registration obstacles that have debilitated local environmental groups, forcing some activists into exile and others to steer clear of important work," said Richard Pearshouse, environment director at HRW.

"These restrictions violate the rights to freedom of assembly and association and threaten Egypt's ability to uphold its environmental and climate action commitments as the host of COP27," the rights group added in a statement.

Egyptian authorities have lately championed concerns that industrialised countries — the biggest polluters — have fallen short in helping developing African nations tackle climate change impacts for which the continent shares little blame.

But for one environmentalist cited by HRW, this was "because this intersects with their interests, like the need for more funds".

HRW said it spoke to 13 activists, academics, scientists and journalists who had been involved in climate action in Egypt.

Rights groups had repeatedly condemned Egypt's human rights record under President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, who ousted Islamist president Mohamed Morsi in 2013 before becoming head of state the following year.

They alleged the country held some 60,000 political prisoners, many held on charges of "spreading false news". **AFP**

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Q&A

CORPORATE COACH ACADEMY

By Dr Michael Heah

CEO/Adjunct Professor/Certified Master Coach

TAKE A DEEP DIVE TO DISCOVER MORE ABOUT YOURSELF

Put more empathy into your authority

Question: I have been a pastor at a church for more than 10 years. I have noticed the number of young churchgoers dwindling year after year. This is worrying because this will affect the growth and expansion of the congregation. They cite reasons such as the location and time of services to explain why they cannot attend church, although I doubt very much these are the real reasons. There is definitely something more serious. What do you make of this?

Answer: One reality you need to accept is that attrition in any organisation, religious or secular, is inevitable. Factors like migration, change in place of work or residence and natural ones like births and deaths will happen and all these can result in demographic changes. However, it will become a concern when the outflow is greater than the inflow. The most common reason for this is leadership. A good leader in any organisation will always ensure inflow is always higher for the organisation to continually grow, while an ineffective one will somehow contribute to greater outflow that can disrupt growth.

Good leadership in the context of your church could lie in your ability to meet the needs of the congregation, especially the younger generation. This could be in the form of many things: building rapport with them, injecting fun and excitement into church activities and involving them in decision-making. You need to take charge of this instead of relying solely on "divine intervention" to help you grow your congregation. Put your ears closer to the ground to feel the pulse of your people. You will know exactly what needs to be done to get better results.

Powerful questions

- What do you think are younger members' feelings?
- How have you contributed to this?
- What will happen if this continues?
- What will this call for you to do?

Strengthen the inner self first

Question: Since young, giving presentations has never been my cup of tea. Due to this, I have not attempted to improve my speaking skills or care about how I do it, nor did I bother with what people have said about my lack of presentation skills. However, circumstances are different now as I have become a trainer and I need to engage with people well. I also need to make business pitches and speaking skills are crucial. So I tried to improve myself in this, but sadly I've had little progress. I am not confident I can make any headway. What can I do to improve myself?

Answer: There is something about your inner self that you need to reconcile with. It is less about improving your speaking skill, bur rather strengthening your inner state.

The first place to start is to strengthen your outlook by improving what you are saying about yourself. From there, instead of placing too much focus on improving your speaking ability, you need to learn to be your natural self. This will make you more engaging to the audience both in your words and actions. Generally, people will prefer to listen to someone who is authentic over someone who is there to put on a show just to impress. Once you can do this, work on becoming more innovative about your delivery to stand out from the crowd.

Powerful questions

- What do you want to say positively to yourself?
- What keywords do you want in your self talk?
- What will make you stand out from the crowd?
- What do you want to watch out for?

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Properties

095 Houses For Sale

1 STY TERRACE House. 20x65 Kitchen extend. HS(D) 290185, PTD 68904, Mukim Tebrau. No 16 Jln Setia Indah 8/3, Setia Indah, 81100 JB. Harga RM420k. Tel: CN Wang 0167773884 (REN 09755).

JB TMN PELANGI Indah. 2 Storey Semi-D House Bumi Lot. HSD 334358 PTD 88019 Mukim Tebrau. Tel: 018-2354064.

NO 4, JLN Indah 5/12, Tmn Bukit Indah, 79100 Iskandar Puteri Johor. GRN 204496 Lot 66913 Mukim Pulai. Lot Bumi. Tel: 013-7109237 Yusof.

PERSIARAN ALAM DAMAI Cheras, 2sty, 22x75, Non Bumi lot. Near all ammenities RM720K nego. Tel: 012-3897488

SEPANG TMN SRI Bayu semi-d 1-dkt 32x100, 3rms 2bath nr Pantai Bagan Lalang Rm340k rdg 019-2403632 E1321

095 Houses For Sale

TAMAN SG. SERING Gombak One-storey semi-detached hse/ 222,967 sq m/ Bumiputera Only Contact Tn. Kechik 019-3738225

097 Houses Wanted

WE ARE SEEKING House & land for sale in Johor area. Seven days get the money. Please call : 012-7832709.

098 Apartments For Sale

0409, BLOCK 46, Flat Taman Tun Aminah, 81300 Skudai Johor. Geran 31094/M3/4/1 Lot 14595 Mukim Pulai. Bumi Lot. Tel: 013-7109237 Yusof.

104 Office Spaces For Sale

J.B. LAMAN SETIA, Setia Eco Garden. 3 Storey Office Shop Semi Detached, No. 4 , Jln Laman Setia 2/22. GRN 515462 / L11 Mukim Pulai (Bumi Lot). Please call : 012-7777555.

104 Office Spaces For Sale

J.B. LAMAN SETIA, Setia Eco Garden. 3 Storey Office Shop Semi Detached, No. 2, Jln Laman Setia 2/22. GRN 515462 / L12 Mukim Pulai (Bumi Lot). Please call : 012-7777555.

107 Shops For Sale

UNIT B-03, SOUTHKEY Lakefront PN69118/M1B/1/64 Lot 199146 Mukim Plentong Johor Bahru. Lot Bumi. Tel: Heizkeil 014-3698620.

115 Land For Sale

LAND FOR SALE. Developer : ECK Property Sdn Bhd. Location next to MBI Desaku, Kulim. Land Selling price: 354.841 x 43,560.17 x 35 Land area: 354.841 acres. Tel : 011-12440659 Muhammad Nazmi

117 Land Wanted

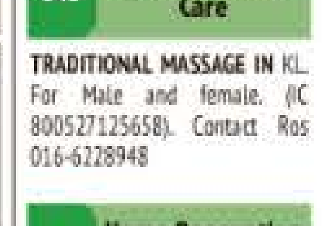
1 - 10 acres land lot & orchard wanted in Kuala Lumpur, Selangor, Negeri Sembilan, Perak & Pahang. Only owner land. Please call Mohd 012-2237269.

General Classifieds

043 Health/Beauty Care

TRADITIONAL MASSAGE IN KL. For Male and female. (IC 800527125658). Contact Ros 016-6228948

051 Home Renovation /Services



AUTOGATE INSTALLATION & Repair. Replace roller & bearing. 29 years experiece. 100% Genuine spare parts. Cover Klang Vally. Call EE Automation Tel: 03 - 8062 5891

088 Agents/ Distributors Wanted

AN INTERNATIONAL NUTRIGENOMICS Nutrition company is looking for agents in Malaysia, Sabah, Sarawak, Singapore, Brunei and Indonesia. WhatsApp 018-874 4570 for more information.

089 Leasing/Loans

LOAN FOR MOTOR, car, van. Shun Ho Motor, 17 Jln 2A/27A Wangsa Maju. Depan AEON. 03-4142 4344 / 55. Immediate approval.

Notices

221 Liquor License

NOTICE
APPLICATION FOR LICENCE TO SELL LIQUOR

It is hereby notified that **JASON KOH KIANG HEE (I/C Number 810415-01-6077)** trading under the trade name of **JASRON HOLDINGS SDN BHD (Co. Reg. No 1428536-X (20201028236)** intend to apply to the Chairman, Excise Licensing Board, Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur, c/o Licensing and Petty Trader Management Department, Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur, Level 4, 5 and 9, Menara DBKL 2, Jalan Raja Laut, 50350 Kuala Lumpur for the sale of Liquor, Type **PUBLIC HOUSE CLASS 1 at 29 & 29-1 BUKIT BINTANG JALAN PUDU LAMA BUKIT BINTANG 50200 KUALA LUMPUR.**

Any objection from the public should be forwarded to the said Board at the above address or email: lmkdbkl@gmail.com

NOTICE
APPLICATION FOR LICENSE TO SELL LIQOUR

It is hereby notified that, I **TIMOTHY RYAN THOMAS A/L GILBERT THOMAS (IC NO: 670731045003)** trading under the trade name **BRENT WOOD ENTERPRISE [202203145479 (003405949-H)]** intend to apply to the Chairman, Excise Licensing Board, Daerah Melaka Tengah, Melaka for the sale of liquor, Type **PUBLIC HOUSE CLASS 1** at **128, JALAN TUN TAN CHENG LOCK, 75200 MELAKA.**

Any objection from the public should be forwarded to the said Board at the above address.

NOTICE
APPLICATION FOR LICENSE TO SELL LIQUOR

It is hereby notified that **TENG SOON KIN (I/C No: 770910-08-6669)** trading under the trade name of **SAPPHIRE RESTAURANT ENTERPRISE 202203218359 (KT0529369-D)** intend to apply to the Chairman, Excise Licensing Board, Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur, c/o Licensing and Petty Trader Management Department, Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur, Level 4, 5 and 9, DBKL Tower 2, Jalan Raja Laut, 50350 Kuala Lumpur for the sale of Liquor, type **PUBLIC HOUSE CLASS 1** at **NO. 36-G, JALAN SULTAN ISMAIL, BUKIT BINTANG, 50250, KUALA LUMPUR, WILAYAH PERSEKUTUAN.**

Any objection from the public should be forwarded to the said Board at the above address or email:lmkdbkl@gmail.com

NOTICE
APPLICATION FOR LICENCE TO SELL LIQUOR

It is hereby notified that, I **DAX LEE YOONG FEI** I/c No. **760603-10-5899** trading under the trade name of **BITAZZA SDN. BHD. (1304188-V)** has applied to the Chairman,Excise Licensing Board, District of Petaling, No. 1, Persiaran Atmosfera, Sek U5, Shah Alam, Selangor Darul Ehsan for the sale of Liquor, Type **PUBLIC HOUSE CLASS 1** at **SKY 1, FIRST AVENUE, BANDAR UTAMA, 47800 PETALING JAYA, SELANGOR.**

Any objection from the public should be forwarded to the said Board at the above address.

222 Legal

IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYA AT KUALA TERENGGANU IN THE STATE OF TERENGGANU DARUL IMAN, MALAYSIA
COMPANIES (WINDING-UP) PETITION NO: TA-28NCC-29-08/2022

IN THE MATTER OF SECTION 465(1)(e) OF THE COMPANIES ACT. 2016

And

IN THE MATTER OF ASTANA IDEAL SDN BHD. (628427-A)

ANTARA

GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA ...PETITIONER

DAN

ASTANA IDEAL SDN. BHD. (628427-A) ...RESPONDENT

ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION

NOTICE is hereby given that a Petition for the Winding-Up of the abovenamed Company by the High Court was on the **21.08.2022** presented by the Government of Malaysia AND that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at **High Court of Kuala Terengganu** on **Tuesday, 20.09.2022** at **9.00 o'clock** in the morning AND any Creditor or Contributory of the said Company desiring to support or oppose the making of an Order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing by himself or his Counsel for that purpose and a copy of the Petition will be furnished to any Creditor or Contributory of the said Company requiring the same by the undersigned on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

The Petitioner's address is at Inland Revenue Board Malaysia, Kuantan Branch, Level GF-2, 5-10, Menara Hasil, Jalan Tanah Putih, 25600 Kuantan, Pahang.

The Petitioner **is Nur Zahirah Binti Zamhuri**, Revenue Counsel of Inland Revenue Board Malaysia for and on behalf of Government of Malaysia.

sgd

NUR ZAHIRAH BINTI ZAMHURI
Revenue Counsel of Inland Revenue Board Malaysia for and on behalf of Government of Malaysia

Note: Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve on or send by post to the abovenamed, notice in writing of his intention to do so. The Notice must state the name and address of the person or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm, and must be signed by the person or firm or his or their solicitors (if any) and must be served, or if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the abovenamed not later than twelve o'clock noon of **19.09.2022.**

(X/C 2143660300/NBA)

222 Legal

IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYA AT KANGAR IN THE STATE OF PERLIS, MALAYSIA
COMPANIES (WINDING-UP) NO: RA-28NCC-7-08/2022

In the matter of Section 465(1)(e) of the Companies Act 2016;

And

In the matter of REGU DINAMIK SDN. BHD. (Company No.: 319346-A);

And

In the matter of the Companies (Winding-Up) Rules 1972;

In the matter of the inherent jurisdiction of the High Court

BETWEEN

GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA ...PETITIONER

AND

REGU DINAMIK SDN. BHD. (COMPANY NO. 319346-A) ...RESPONDENT

ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION

NOTICE is hereby given that a Petition for the Winding-Up of the abovenamed Company by the High Court was on **01 AUGUST 2022** presented by the Government of Malaysia. And that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at Kangar at 9.00 o'clock in the forenoon on **THURSDAY, 03 NOVEMBER 2022** and any creditor or contributory of the said Company desiring to support or oppose the making of an order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing by himself or his counsel for that purpose; and a copy of the Petition will be furnished to any creditor or contributory of the said Company requiring the same by the undersigned on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

The Petitioner's address is at Inland Revenue Board of Malaysia, Wisma Hasil, Persiaran Jubli Emas, 01000 Kangar, Perlis.

The Petitioner is **Nurul Asyikin Binti Kamsi**, Legal Executive Officer of Inland Revenue Board of Malaysia for and on behalf of the Government of Malaysia.

t.t

(NURUL ASYIKIN BINTI KAMSI)
Revenue Counsel
Inland Revenue
Board of Malaysia
For and on behalf of the Government of Malaysia.

NOTE:

Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve on or send by post to the abovenamed, notice in writing of his intention so to do. The Notice must state the name and address of the person, or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm and must be signed by the person, or firm, or his or their solicitor (if any) and must be served, or if posted must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the abovenamed not later than 12.00 o'clock noon of the **02 NOVEMBER 2022.**

(Ref No. X/C 598393201)

222 Legal

IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYA AT KANGAR IN THE STATE OF PERLIS, MALAYSIA
COMPANIES (WINDING-UP) NO: RA-28NCC-6-08/2022

In the matter of Section 465(1)(e) of the Companies Act 2016;

And

In the matter of **KSKPS HOLDINGS SDN. BHD.** (Company No.: 65043-M);

And

In the matter of the Companies (Winding-Up) Rules 1972;

In the matter of the inherent jurisdiction of the High Court

BETWEEN

GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA ...PETITIONER

AND

KSKPS HOLDINGS SDN. BHD. (COMPANY NO. 65043-M) ...RESPONDENT

ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION

NOTICE is hereby given that a Petition for the Winding-Up of the abovenamed Company by the High Court was on **01 AUGUST 2022** presented by the Government of Malaysia. And that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at Kangar at **9.00 o'clock** in the forenoon on **THURSDAY, 03 NOVEMBER 2022** and any creditor or contributory of the said Company desiring to support or oppose the making of an order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing by himself or his counsel for that purpose; and a copy of the Petition will be furnished to any creditor or contributory of the said Company requiring the same by the undersigned on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

The Petitioner's address is at Inland Revenue Board of Malaysia, Wisma Hasil, Persiaran Jubli Emas, 01000 Kangar, Perlis.

The Petitioner is **Nurul Asyikin Binti Kamsi**, Legal Executive Officer of Inland Revenue Board of Malaysia for and on behalf of the Government of Malaysia.

t.t

(NURUL ASYIKIN BINTI KAMSI)
Revenue Counsel
Inland Revenue Board of Malaysia
For and on behalf of the Government of Malaysia.

NOTE:

Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve on or send by post to the abovenamed, notice in writing of his intention so to do. The Notice must state the name and address of the person, or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm and must be signed by the person, or firm, or his or their solicitor (if any) and must be served, or if posted must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the abovenamed not later than 12.00 o'clock noon of the **02 NOVEMBER 2022.**

(Ref. No. X/C 288048202)

222 Legal

Form 12
(Rule 34, Companies (Winding-up) Rules, 1972)
IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYA AT SHAH ALAM
COMPANIES WINDING-UP NO : BA-28NCC-97-02/2022

In The Matter Of Paragraph 465(1)(e) Of The Companies Act, 2016

And

In The Matter Of SD New & Used Auto Parts (M) Sdn. Bhd. (202001017525(585188-A)) (Formerly Known As Din & Tahir Sunshine (M) Sdn. Bhd.) No. E-3-1, Tingkat 1, Blok E, Putra Walk, Jalan PP25, Taman Pinggiran Putra Seksyen 2, Bandar Putra Permai 43300 Seri Kembangan, Selangor

BETWEEN

GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA ...PETITIONER

AND

SD NEW & USED AUTO PARTS (M) SDN. BHD. (202001017525 (585188-A)) (FORMERLY KNOWN AS DIN & TAHIR SUNSHINE (M) SDN. BHD.) ... RESPONDENT

NOTICE FOR WINDING-UP ORDER

In the matter of SD New & Used Auto Parts (M) Sdn. Bhd. (202001017525(585188-A)) (Formerly Known As Din & Tahir Sunshine (M) Sdn. Bhd.)

Winding-Up Order made on **02.09.2022**

Name and address of Liquidator:
Official Receiver of Malaysia
Malaysia Department of Insolvency
Selangor Branch
Lot F21-F40, Level 1,
Bangunan IOCC Shah Alam,
Jalan Pahat L 15/L, Seksyen 15,
40200 SHAH ALAM, SELANGOR

(NORHISHAM BIN AHMAD)
Director
Cawangan Guaman Kuala Lumpur,
Inland Revenue Board of Malaysia,
For and on behalf of the Government of Malaysia

Ref: 13.09.2022 /rn
X/C 11804733-07(PJA)

X/C 12081262-09(PJA)
Form 12
(Rule 34, Companies (Winding-up) Rules, 1972)
IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYA AT SHAH ALAM
COMPANIES WINDING-UP NO : BA-28NCC-216-03/2022

In The Matter Of Section 465(1)(e) Of The Companies Act, 2016

And

In The Matter Of Geofocus Sdn. Bhd.(651875-X) No.31-1B, Tingkat 1, Jalan UP 1/6, Ukay Perdana, 68000 Ampang, Selangor.

BETWEEN

GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA ... PETITIONER

AND

GEOFOCUS SDN. BHD.(651875-X) ... RESPONDENT

NOTICE FOR WINDING-UP ORDER

In the matter of Geofocus Sdn. Bhd. (651875-X)

Winding-Up Order made on 30.8.2022

Name and address of Liquidator:
Official Receiver, Malaysia
Malaysia Department of Insolvency,
Selangor Branch
Menara MRCB,
Level 12, 13, 13A & 18
No. 2, Jalan Majlis 14/10,
Seksyen 14
40712 Shah Alam,
Selangor Darul Ehsan

(NORHISHAM BIN AHMAD)
Director
Cawangan Guaman Kuala Lumpur,
Inland Revenue Board of Malaysia,
For and on behalf of the Government of Malaysia.

Ref: 13.9.2022/PI

222 Legal

DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI SHAH ALAM
DALAM NEGERI SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN, MALAYSIA
DALAM PERKARA KEBANKRAPAN NO. BA-29NCC-1553-07/2022

BERKENAAN: FADZILAH BINTI MD HALIM (NO. K/P :890617-08-5034) ...PENGHUTANG PENGHAKIMAN

EX-PARTE: CITIBANK BERHAD (NO. SYARIKAT: 199401011410 (297089-M)) ...PEMIUTANG PENGHAKIMAN

NOTIS IKLAN

Kepada:-

FADZILAH BINTI MD HALIM
R1-11-06 VIO Service Apartment
Setiawalk Persiaran Wawasan
47100 Puchong, Selangor

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa suatu Notis Kebankrapan telah dikeluarkan terhadap kamu di dalam Mahkamah Tinggi di Shah Alam oleh CITIBANK BERHAD Berhad beralamat di Tingkat 13, Menara Citibank, 165, Jalan Ampang, 50450 Kuala Lumpur dan Mahkamah telah memerintahkan bahawa Notis Kebankrapan tersebut diserahkan kepada Penghutang Penghakiman secara penyampaian ganti dengan menampalkan satu salinan perintah ini dan satu salinan Notis Kebankrapan dalam tindakan ini pada Papan Notis Mahkamah Tinggi Shah Alam dan dengan menyerahkan sesalinan Notis Kebankrapan bersama sesalinan Perintah Penyampaian Ganti secara penampalan di alamat terakhir Penghutang Penghakiman yang diketahui di **R1-11-06 VIO Service Apartment, Setiawalk Persiaran Wawasan, 47100 Puchong, Selangor** dan dengan mengiklankan satu (1) Notis sekali di dalam akhbar tempatan bernama "The New Straits Times" **DAN AKHIRNYA ADALAH DIPERINTAHKAN** bahawa penampalan dan pengiklanan tersebut hendaklah dianggap sebagai penyampaian yang sempurna dan cukup ke atas Penghutang Penghakiman empat belas (14) hari selepas tarikh akhir penampalan, pengeposan dan pengiklanan tersebut.

Jika kamu berniat untuk menentang Notis Kebankrapan tersebut kamu mestilah dalam masa (7) hari dari tarikh penampalan dan pengiklanan tersebut menjadi sempurna, memohon kepada Mahkamah untuk mengenepikan Notis Kebankrapan tersebut dengan memasukkan satu Afidavit bagi maksud tersebut. Jika tidak, suatu Petisyen Pemiutang boleh dikeluarkan terhadap kamu.

Notis Kebankrapan ini boleh diperiksa oleh kamu atas permohonan kamu di Mahkamah ini.

Bertarikh pada 08 Ogos 2022.

AZMI AMAN
Penolong Kanan Pendaftar
Mahkamah Tinggi Malaya
Shah Alam

Notis Iklan ini telah difailkan oleh Tetuan Saow & Megat, Peguamcara Pemiutang yang mempunyai alamat penyampaiannya di Suite 17.03, Level 17, Wisma MCA, 163 Jalan Ampang, 50450 Kuala Lumpur.

[Tel No. 03-2166 2384 Faks:03-2166 3386]

(No. Ruj :L.UPL.83561.22(A)/ fma

DALAM MAHKAMAH MAJISTRET DI AMPANG
DALAM NEGERI SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN, MALAYSIA
NO. SAMAN/GUAMAN SIVIL: BC-A71NCvC-112-05/2022

BER : LIEW THAN CHONG
NO. K/P : 611105-10-6219 DEFENDAN
EX-PARTE : KERAJAAN MALAYSIA PLAINTIF

NOTIS

Kepada :

LIEW THAN CHONG
BLOK D-10-01 JALAN 16, TAMAN PANDAN RIA 2
68000 AMPANG, SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa satu Writ Saman dan Pernyataan Tuntutan telah dikeluarkan terhadap kamu dalam Mahkamah ini oleh Kerajaan Malaysia yang alamat penyerahan ialah Lembaga Hasil Dalam Negeri Malaysia, Cawangan Guaman Lembah Klang, Aras Bawah, 1, 2 & 3, Kompleks Bangunan Kerajaan, Jalan Tuanku Abdul Halim, 50600 Kuala Lumpur dan Mahkamah ini telah memerintahkan bahawa Writ Saman dan Pernyataan Tuntutan ini diserahkan kepada kamu secara penyampaian ganti dengan menampalkan sesalinan Writ Saman dan Pernyataan Tuntutan tersebut beserta dengan salinan Perintah Penyampaian Ganti di pintu hadapan alamat terakhir kamu di **Blok D-10-01 Jalan 16, Taman Pandan Ria 2, 68000 Ampang, Selangor Darul Ehsan** dan papan kenyataan **Mahkamah Majistret Di Ampang** dan juga memasukkan satu pengiklanan di akhbar tempatan iaitu "**New Straits Times**" dan penampalan dan pengiklanan tersebut hendaklah dianggap penyampaian sempurna dan cukup ke atas kamu tujuh (7) hari selepas tarikh akhir penampalan atau pengiklanan tersebut.

Writ Saman dan Pernyataan Tuntutan ini boleh diperiksa oleh kamu atas permohonan kamu di Mahkamah ini.

Sekiranya kamu berhasrat untuk membela dalam tindakan tersebut, kamu mestilah dalam masa empat belas (14) hari dari tarikh tersiarnya iklan ini, memasukkan kehadiran di Pejabat Pendaftaran, Mahkamah Majistret Di Ampang. Jika ingkar memasukkan kehadiran, penghakiman boleh diberikan atau perintah dibuat terhadap atau berhubungan dengan dirinya sebagaimana yang difikirkan adil dan suai manfaat oleh Mahkamah.

Bertarikh 21 Julai 2022

...............t.t...............
PENOLONG PENDAFTAR
MAHKAMAH MAJISTRET
AMPANG

Notis Iklan ini difailkan oleh Kerajaan Malaysia yang alamat penyerahan ialah Lembaga Hasil Dalam Negeri Malaysia, Cawangan Guaman Lembah Klang, Aras Bawah, 1, 2 & 3, Kompleks Bangunan Kerajaan, Jalan Tuanku Abdul Halim, 50600 Kuala Lumpur.

No. Rujukan: OG 3083681-08(0)

222 Legal

DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI SHAH ALAM
DALAM NEGERI SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN, MALAYSIA
KEBANKRAPAN NO.: BA-29NCC-1604-07/2022

Per: **YIP CHIN HWEE (NO. K/P: 830529-14-5625)** ... **PENGHUTANG PENGHAKIMAN**

Ex Parte: **REDHOT MEDIA SDN BHD (NO. SYARIKAT: 200401006385 (644889-T))** ... **PEMIUTANG PENGHAKIMAN**

NOTIS

(Dalam perkara Notis Kebankrapan bertarikh 13.7.2022)

Kepada:

Yip Chin Hwee
No. 40
Jalan Perak 7/1F
Seksyen 7
40000 Shah Alam

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa suatu Notis Kebankrapan telah dikeluarkan terhadap kamu dalam Mahkamah Tinggi di Shah Alam oleh Redhot Media Sdn Bhd yang beralamat di No. 6B, Jalan 19/36, 46300 Petaling Jaya, Selangor dan bahawa Mahkamah ini telah memerintahkan bahawa Notis Kebankrapan dan Permintaan Mengeluarkan Notis Kebankrapan kedua-duanya bertarikh 13.7.2022 (**"Kertas Kausa"**) disampaikan kepada kamu dengan menampalkan satu salinan Kertas Kausa tersebut bersama dengan satu salinan Perintah Untuk Penyampaian Gantian bertarikh 15.8.2022 di Papan Notis, Mahkamah Tinggi, di Shah Alam dan di alamat kamu di No. 46, Jalan Perak 7/1F, Seksyen 7, 40000 Shah Alam dan dengan penyampaian melalui iklan sekali di dalam The New Straits Times dan bahawa serahan ini disifatkan sebagai serahan yang sempurna terhadap Penghutang Penghakiman selepas tamat tempoh 14 hari dari tarikh penampalan atau pengiklanan yang mana terakhir.

Notis Kebankrapan ini boleh diperiksa oleh kamu, jika kamu membuat suatu permohonan ke mahkamah ini.

SILA AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa Notis Kebankrapan telah ditetapkan untuk **pengurusan kes secara eReview** pada **hari Selasa, 18.10.2022 pukul 9.00 pagi.**

Bertarikh 15 Ogos 2022

Ditandatangani

Penolong Kanan Pendaftar
Mahkamah Tinggi Malaya
Shah Alam

Notis ini difailkan oleh Chooi & Company + Cheang & Ariff, peguamcara Pemiutang Penghakiman dengan alamat penyampaiannya di 39 Court @ Loke Mansion, No. 273A, Jalan Medan Tuanku, 50300 Kuala Lumpur.
Ruj : AFZ.CKW.L20200128 Tel : 03-26910803
E-mel : ccaw@ccalaw.com Faks: 03-26912255

DALAM MAHKAMAH MAJISTRET DI AMPANG
DALAM NEGERI SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN, MALAYSIA
NO. SAMAN/GUAMAN SIVIL: BC-A71NCvC-103-05/2022

BER : MOCHLIS BIN SIRI
NO. K/P : 590101-71-5117 DEFENDAN
EX-PARTE : KERAJAAN MALAYSIA PLAINTIF

NOTIS

Kepada :

MOCHLIS BIN SIRI
BLOK B-1-1-35 ANTARA APARTMENT, JALAN MULIA JAYA ½
TAMAN MULIA JAYA, 68000 AMPANG, SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa satu Writ Saman dan Pernyataan Tuntutan telah dikeluarkan terhadap kamu dalam Mahkamah ini oleh Kerajaan Malaysia yang alamat penyerahan ialah Lembaga Hasil Dalam Negeri Malaysia, Cawangan Guaman Lembah Klang, Aras Bawah, 1, 2 & 3, Kompleks Bangunan Kerajaan, Jalan Tuanku Abdul Halim, 50600 Kuala Lumpur dan Mahkamah ini telah memerintahkan bahawa Writ Saman dan Pernyataan Tuntutan ini diserahkan kepada kamu secara penyampaian ganti dengan menampalkan sesalinan Writ Saman dan Pernyataan Tuntutan tersebut beserta dengan salinan Perintah Penyampaian Ganti di pintu hadapan alamat terakhir kamu di **Blok B-1-1-35 Antara Apartment, Jalan Mulia Jaya ½, Taman Mulia Jaya, 68000 Ampang, Selangor Darul Ehsan** dan papan kenyataan **Mahkamah Majistret Di Ampang** dan juga memasukkan satu pengiklanan di akhbar tempatan iaitu "**New Straits Times**" dan penampalan dan pengiklanan tersebut hendaklah dianggap penyampaian sempurna dan cukup ke atas kamu tujuh (7) hari selepas tarikh akhir penampalan atau pengiklanan tersebut.

Writ Saman dan Pernyataan Tuntutan ini boleh diperiksa oleh kamu atas permohonan kamu di Mahkamah ini.

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Bertarikh 21 Julai 2022

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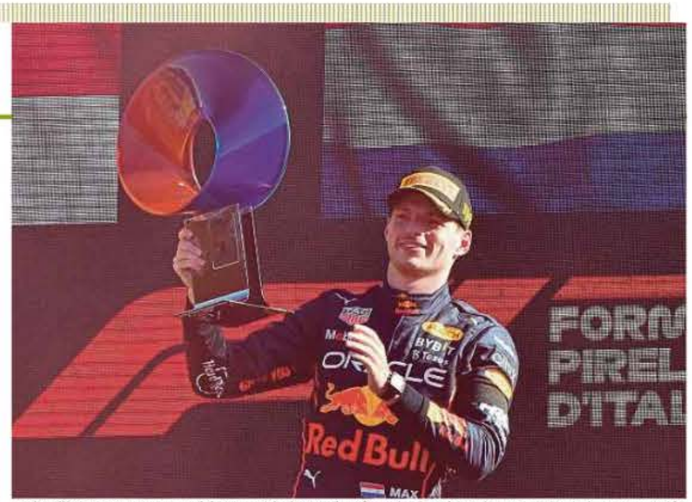
FORMULA ONE

VERSTAPPEN CLOSES IN ON WORLD TITLE

Red Bull driver holds off Leclerc with safety car victory at Monza



Red Bull's Max Verstappen celebrates with the trophy after winning the Italian Grand Prix in Monza, Italy, on Sunday. REUTERS PIC

MONZA (Italy)

RED Bull's Max Verstappen dashed Ferrari's home hopes and won the Italian Grand Prix behind the safety car on Sunday to move within reach of his second Formula One world championship.

The Dutch 24-year-old's victory at the "Temple of Speed", in a race that ended disappointingly and to boos from the crowd, was Verstappen's fifth in a row and 11th from 16 races this season.

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, Verstappen's closest rival and now 116 points adrift with six races remaining, took second after starting on pole position but twice surrendering the lead in the pits.

George Russell finished third for Mercedes.

If Verstappen scores 22 points more than Leclerc in the next race in Singapore on Oct 2, the title battle will be over.

Otherwise, it goes on to Japan a week later.

"You deserve that victory. It's a shame it didn't get going at the end there but you were the fastest car all weekend," Red Bull boss Christian Horner told Verstappen over the radio after the chequered flag.

"Great job guys, we had a great race car," he replied, before stepping out onto the Monza podium for the first time.

The win was Verstappen's 31st, lifting him level with Britain's 1992 champion Nigel Mansell in the all-time list.

Verstappen started seventh on the grid but was third after the opening lap and 19.5 seconds clear of Leclerc with 20 laps remaining when the Ferrari pitted from the lead to go from medium tyres to softs.

Leclerc had made his first stop at the end of lap 11 when the virtual safety car was triggered by Sebastian Vettel's Aston Martin stopping on track, also handing the lead to Verstappen who pitted on lap 25.

Ferrari team boss Mattia Binotto said they had to do something different to Red Bull because it was the only hope of winning.

The safety car, deployed six laps from the end when last year's winner Daniel Ricciardo stopped his McLaren on track with an engine failure, raised the home fans' hopes.

In the end it took too long to move the car for racing to resume.

The race, at a super-fast circuit celebrating its 100th anniversary, finished with the safety car peeling off into the pits and no opportunity for the order to change in the short run to the flag.

"The end was frustrating, I wish we could have ended up racing," said Leclerc.

"It's a shame. Overall, I gave it all today. I wish I could have won in front of the amazing *tifosi* (fans) but I just couldn't today."

Ferrari's Carlos Sainz was fourth after starting 18th and seven-times world champion Lewis Hamilton went from the back row of the grid to fifth for Mercedes.

"This morning, the team said anywhere between sixth and fourth was possible. That always feels like a stretch... but I had a lot of fun working my way to P5," said Hamilton. **Reuters**

CRICKET

Asia Cup win to aid Sri Lanka prep for T20 World Cup

Sri Lanka captain Dasun Shanaka holds the Asia Cup T20 trophy in Dubai on Sunday. AFP PIC

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka captain Dasun Shanaka said winning the Asia Cup will help the team's preparation for next month's Twenty20 World Cup, while batsman Bhanuka Rajapaksa labelled the achievement as a "great win" for the island nation amid their economic crisis.

Sri Lanka won the Asia Cup for the sixth time on Sunday after Rajapaksa's batting masterclass and Wanindu Hasaranga's all-round brilliance secured their 23-run victory against Pakistan in the final.

Sri Lanka, who won the T20 World Cup in 2014, are due to begin their World Cup campaign with a qualifying match against Namibia on Oct 16.

"We played last year's qualifiers as well... It's the set-up that has come through from three or four years back," Shanaka said.

"The last two years were really good for us... Winning Asia Cup will really help for the... World Cup. The World Cup qualifiers will help as well because we will play in those conditions before the main tournament happens."

Rajapaksa, who scored an unbeaten 71 in the final, said the team wanted to show "aggression".

"We all just wanted to show the world, a couple of decades back, that we had some sort of aggression in our side.

"And we wanted to create those moments again. I think, as a unit, we are doing that fantastically well at the moment. We want to look forward to the World Cup as well and to keep up this momentum.

"As a nation, I think it's a great win... with all the crisis happening back home, these are tough times for Sri Lankans. We are glad and hope that we brought some smiles to their faces." **Reuters**

RUGBY

Fiji crowned champions in World Cup Sevens

CAPE TOWN: Two tries in the opening two minutes propelled Olympic champions Fiji to a 29-12 victory over New Zealand in the final of the Rugby World Cup Sevens here on Sunday.

Joseva Talacolo and Kaminieli Rasaku scored early to put New Zealand, who had won the previous two titles, on the backfoot, before Elia Canakaivata, Filipe Sauturaga and Pilipo Bukayaro added further tries in the one-sided decider.

It is a third World Cup win in all for the Fijians, but a first since 2005 as they made up for the disappointment of losing the Commonwealth Games final to South Africa in July.

"It was a huge performance. The boys have been fantastic the whole weekend," Fiji coach Ben Gollings said.

"Everyone knows us for an attacking game, but the key for us is also to stop the tries against us. Yesterday and today were huge defensive performances, they (the players) have run themselves into the ground.

"We knew we let ourselves down in the Commonwealth Games final and we targeted this one."

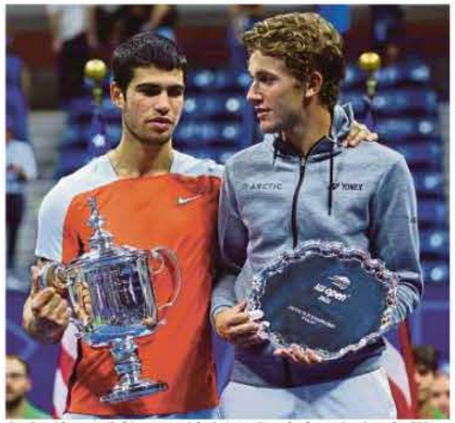
Australia claimed the women's competition for the first time since 2009 with a dramatic 24-22 victory over holders New Zealand to secure a unique hat-trick of Commonwealth Games, World Series and World Cup titles in a single year.

"We spoke about the 2009 squad today and doing it for them and for everybody back home," Australia's Charlotte Caslick said. "What we have achieved this year is pretty awesome." **Reuters**

TENNIS

ALCARAZ IS WORLD NO 1

Teenager wins US Open to claim first Grand Slam title and takes over Medvedev's spot at the top of the rankings



Carlos Alcaraz (left) poses with Casper Ruud after winning the US Open at Flushing Meadows in New York on Sunday. REUTERS PIC

NEW YORK

SPANISH teenager Carlos Alcaraz completed his rapid rise to the top of the tennis world on Sunday, claiming his first Grand Slam title and taking the No 1 ranking with a 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (7-1), 6-3 win over Norway's Casper Ruud in the US Open final.

Alcaraz, 19, fell to his back and cupped his hands to his face before jumping up to embrace Ruud at the net. He then climbed past photographers and into the stands to celebrate in his box with his team.

"This is something I dreamed of since I was a kid, to be number one in the world, to be the champion at a Grand Slam," Alcaraz said in an on-court interview.

"All the hard work that I did with my team, with my family. I'm just 19-years-old so all of the tough decisions are with my parents and my team as well.

"This is something that is really, really special for me."

"Bravo Carlitos!" was displayed on a banner inside the stadium for the tennis prodigy from El Palmar.

The electrifying Alcaraz, who thrilled fans over the two-week tournament in New York with his explosive speed, booming forehand and acrobatic shotmaking, replaced Russian Daniil Medvedev at the top of the rankings.

He is the youngest world No 1 since the ATP rankings began in 1973, breaking the mark set by Lleyton Hewitt, who was 20 when he became No 1 in 2001.

Alcaraz had a difficult path to the title.

He battled from a break down in the fifth set to beat Marin Cilic in the fourth round, played the latest finishing match in tournament history to defeat Italy's Jannik Sinner in the quarters, and faced down American Frances Tiafoe in the semis.

"I always say that there is no time to be tired in the final round of a Grand Slam or any tournament," said Alcaraz, who spent 23 hours and 40 minutes on court over his seven matches.

"You have to give everything you have inside."

Rafael Nadal, the winner of men's record 22 Grand Slam titles, took to Twitter to offer his congratulations to his countryman and predicted more success was on the way.

"Well, I have one. He has 22," a beaming Alcaraz told reporters. "I'm in the row."

Ruud was trying to become the first Norwegian to capture the top spot but was unable to match Alcaraz's firepower under the closed roof at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

French Open finalist Ruud will rise to second in the world from No 7.

Sunday's final was the first featuring two men competing for both their first Grand Slam title and the world No 1 ranking.

"We knew what we were playing for, we knew what was at stake," said Ruud.

"Number two is not too bad either. I will continue to chase for my first Grand Slam and the number one world ranking."

While for many years the Flushing Meadows spotlight has shone on the 'Big Three' of Nadal, Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer, it was the future of the men's game — Alcaraz, Ruud, Sinner and Tiafoe — thrilling the crowds this time around. **Reuters**

FOOTBALL

Bayern wary ahead of Lewandowski reunion

BERLIN: Bayern Munich will welcome Robert Lewandowski's Barcelona to the Allianz Arena today, hoping to jolt themselves out of a poor run of Bundesliga form.

Despite Wednesday's impressive 2-0 win at Inter Milan, Bayern have drawn three games in a row and sit in the unfamiliar position of third place after six matches.

While Bayern have not struggled to find the back of the net this season with 31 goals in nine games, they have missed Lewandowski's penetration at crucial moments in recent weeks.

Lewandowski has had a dominant start to life in Spain, scoring six times in five La Liga matches for Barcelona to sit in his usual spot atop the goalscoring charts.

With four wins and a draw, Barcelona are unbeaten in the league and sit second behind Real Madrid.

In the Champions League, Lewandowski opened his account with a hat-trick in Barcelona's 5-1 home win against Viktoria Plzen.

Speaking directly after their 2-2 home draw with Stuttgart on Saturday, Bayern sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic said his team knew better than most the kind of damage Lewandowski could inflict.

"We have been warned," Salihamidzic said about his former striker's form for his new club.

Bayern have a strong recent Champions League record against Barcelona, with two 3-0 wins last season along with an 8-2 quarter-final thumping on the way to winning the 2020 title.

The six-time European champions are however fully aware that this Barcelona side are stronger than some of the recent incarnations.

"Worried? I don't know (about that)," Salihamidzic said on Saturday when asked if his side were fearful ahead of Barca's visit.

"We have to shift up two gears, even three against Barcelona.

"Barcelona have top players, play good football (and) 'Lewa' is up front, he uses every opportunity."

Manager Julian Nagelsmann said his side's Bundesliga form will not change the preparation for today's game.

"I approach the week the way I would have done it if we had won," Nagelsmann said on Saturday.

After his side's 2-0 win over Inter, Nagelsmann said his side were "looking forward" to taking on the man who scored 344 goals in 375 Bayern appearances.

"I am looking forward to it (the reunion with Lewandowski). Not so much as an opponent because he's very dangerous, but as a person I will be pleased to see him." **AFP**

FIXTURES

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE		
TODAY		
PLZEN	v	INTER
(Tomorrow, 12:30am)		
SPORTING	v	TOTTENHAM
(Tomorrow, 12:30am)		
LIVERPOOL	v	AJAX
BAYERN	v	BARCELONA
PORTO	v	BRUGGE
MARSEILLE	v	FRANKFURT
LEVERKUSEN	v	ATLETICO

* Matches Tomorrow, 3am, unless stated

Barbora Krejcikova (left) and Katerina Siniakova pose with the trophy after winning the US Open women's doubles title on Sunday. AFP PIC

Barbora-Katerina want more after career Golden Slam

NEW YORK: Barbora Krejcikova and Katerina Siniakova completed the career 'Golden Slam' by winning the US Open women's doubles title on Sunday and the Czech duo have no intention of breaking up a winning team.

The pair fought back to beat unseeded Americans Caty McNally and Taylor Townsend 3-6, 7-5, 6-1 at Arthur Ashe Stadium to pick up their sixth Grand Slam doubles title together.

They won the Australian Open and Wimbledon this year but were unable to defend their French Open title due to Barbora's illness.

Barbora-Katerina also won gold for their country at last year's Tokyo Games.

"I think the goal is mainly to improve every single time we step on the court," said Barbora, the 2021 French Open singles champion.

"When we are playing and we win titles it's amazing satisfaction for that feeling that you are working and improving.

"I think there's a lot of motivation for us to step on the court and try and get better again and improve in doubles together.

"I believe that next time we are going to go to another big tournament we'll just have the motivation to fight again. It will be a new result. Just try to win more Slams and do well." **Reuters**

ATHLETICS

THE SON WALKS TALL

Sriven takes over from parents Chee Leong and Kavitha as he makes his Malaysia Games debut

AFTAR SINGH
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THE sport of walking runs deep in Tan Chee Leong and his family.

The Penangite and his wife, D. Kavitha, have walked at international level. And now it is the turn of their son, Sriven Tan.

Chee Leong was a champion walker, winning the boys' 5,000m in three Asean School Championships in Jakarta (1993), Bangkok (1994) and Jakarta (1995). He also won bronze in the 10,000m walk in three Malaysia Games: 1994 in Perak, 1996 in Pahang and 1998 in Selangor, and a silver in the 2,0000m in 1998. Kavitha represented Penang in the 1993 International Junior Championship race walk.

Notably, the father and son made it a 1-2 finish at the 2019 Penang Starwalk. Chee Leong won the 7km race in 35:29 and Sriven came in second in 38:00.

Sriven, a Form Five student of SMK Haji Abdul Kadir, will make his debut in the Kuala Lumpur Malaysia Games (Sept 15-18). And he will start as a leading contender in the 10,000m and 20,000m. His results at the Malaysian Open in March (he won the 10,000m and 20,000m) have made him a favourite.

Sriven also finished on top of the podium in the 10,000m in the KL All Comers in Bukit Jalil in May, and he clocked a personal best of 49:27 in the Perak Open in Ipoh in June.

Chee Leong, 44, who is now the Penang state athletics coach, said he is happy that his son has kept the family tradition going.

"Sriven was into badminton at the age of 12, but he lost interest after a year. I advised him to switch to walking.

"He started off by winning gold in the 1.5km race in the Little Athletics Championships in Gambang in 2019. In the same year, he also won the 5,000m in the MSSM in Johor. Since then he has made progress in walking.

"I am impressed by my son's success in the Malaysian Open as he did not train for the 20,000m, but still took part and won gold.

"It shows that he has passion and the capability to be a national walker. I feel proud to train Sriven as he takes his training seriously.

"I had competed and won medals in many competitions, but did not feature in the Sea Games. I want my son to achieve what I could not achieve.

"I hope to see Sriven compete in the 2025 Bangkok Sea Games as I want him to concentrate on his SPM next March," said Chee Leong.

Sriven who thanked his father for what he is today, said: "My goal is to do a personal best in the 10,000m and win a medal in the Malaysia Games.

"It will be really nice if I can also win a medal in the 20,000m as I had competed in the event only just once in the Malaysian Open in March."

In the Malaysia Games, Sriven is expected to face a strong challenge from Negri Sembilan's M. Sivanesh, who clocked 54:38.88 in the 10,000m to finish second in the Malaysian Open.

Sriven Tan with his father, Penang coach and former national runner Tan Chee Leong.

NETBALL

Malaysia remain third best in Asia

THINGS haven't changed; Malaysia are still the third best in Asia in women's netball.

That's the main takeaway from the just-concluded Asian championship in Singapore.

The national team had also won bronze at the 2018 edition. The biennial competition was not held in 2020 due to the Covid pandemic.

On Sunday, Malaysia finished on the podium behind Sri Lanka and Singapore, but had the disappointment of missing out on a place at next year's World Cup in Cape Town, South Africa. Only Sri Lanka and Singapore got the World Cup tickets.

Senior player Fariha Razak is, nonetheless, pleased with her team's determination at the Asian meet. But she admitted there is still much room for improvement.

Malaysia finished third after beating Hong Kong 54-42 in the playoff at the OCBC Arena. Fariha's team lost 54-41 to arch-rivals Singapore in the semi-finals.

Fariha Razak

Sri Lanka successfully defended their title after downing Singapore 63-53 in the decider.

Fariha believes that the national squad need more time to develop. "I think we managed to control our game and play better in the match against Hong Kong as compared to our semi-final (against Singapore).

"But overall, there is still a lot that needs to be improved on as this is a new team. This was our first international tournament together.

"You can't really compare (this team) to our past achievements at the Sea Games because a lot of the players have changed.

"The previous team trained together for years on a full time basis. But for this team we were only able to train in phases, roughly one week a month.

"So, the results reflect our preparation... other teams prepared better than us," said Fariha.

Though Singapore beat Malaysia twice (in the preliminary round and placing match) in the Asian championship, Malaysia will not have to worry about them in next year's Phnom Penh Sea Games. That's because netball is not part of the sports on offer.

Malaysia won the Sea Games gold in 2017 and 2019, beating Singapore in both finals. **Fadhli Ishak**

FOOTBALL

Juve held by VAR controversy

TURIN: Juventus came back from two goals down at half-time to draw an incident-packed match with Salernitana 2-2 on Sunday as Atalanta gave up the Serie A lead after a 1-1 draw with Cremonese.

Massimiliano Allegri's Juve drew for the fourth time this season but the point shared doesn't tell the story of a match which ended with four red cards being shown after Arkadiusz Milik's last-gasp winner was ruled out following a VAR check.

The Poland striker sent the Allianz Stadium into raptures with a glancing header five minutes into stoppage time, but the goal was chalked off for Leonardo Bonucci being offside and interfering with play.

Bonucci had levelled on the rebound from his own missed penalty just two minutes previously to set up a grandstand finish which ended in farce.

Milik was given a second yellow card for removing his shirt after scoring what he thought was the decisive goal and then Juan Cuadrado, Salernitana defender Federico Fazio and Allegri were all sent off as tensions flared on the sidelines.

Allegri later asked to see footage which featured Antonio Candreva, who was near the corner flag and appeared to be playing everyone onside.

"We haven't seen that video, what if he keeps everyone onside? We don't have that video, nobody has it, so I don't know," he said on DAZN.

A match that ended in chaos began with Salernitana putting in a superb opening 45 minutes with two goals through Candreva's tap-in and a Krzysztof Piatek penalty on the stroke of half-time.

Davide Nicola's side pulled off a survival miracle on the final day of last season and have got off to a promising start this term.

Salernitana are 10th on seven points, three behind unbeaten Juve who are struggling with injuries and form in the early part of the season.

Their first ever point at Juve was the fourth draw in six games so far in the new campaign.

That was not the only match in Italy to feature VAR controversy as Lecce president Saverio Sticchi Damiani blasted officials for missing two handballs in their 1-1 draw with Monza. **AFP**

BADMINTON

GETTING 'BEST OF BOTH WORLDS' DEAL READY

BAM working on draft copy for pros

FABIAN PETER
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THE contents of the BAM draft, which is expected to be ready by this weekend, will be of great interest to the independent players.

The draft will outline how the pro shuttlers, including Lee Zii Jia, and national players collaborate in training at the Academy Badminton Malaysia (ABM).

BAM, who plan to give the pros access to the ABM facilities in Bukit Kiara, see the move as win-win for both parties.

On the surface, the pro shuttlers and their coaches welcome the BAM move, but said they need to look into the details of the proposal before making further comments.

BAM high performance director Dr Tim Jones, who is tasked to work out the details with BAM secretary general Datuk Kenny Goh, told *Timesport* that it is important for the move to mutually benefit all the parties involved.

With the "best of both worlds" on his mind, Jones said: "I'm working through it (the draft) with the coaching directors (Wong Choong Hann and Rexy Mainaky) on a way that opening up (ABM facilities) can be mutually beneficial.

"I do like the idea of combining the best of both worlds, it will help Malaysia do better which is the ultimate aim.

"In terms of timeline, I would like to have something drafted by the end of this week.

"We will look to engage with the independent players as we need to see it from both sides," said Jones.

Earlier, BAM president Tan Sri Norza Zakaria announced that the national association are ready to work with top independent players for the greater good of the sport in Malaysia. However, these players must be of a certain standard and ranking for the joint-training.

Among the top professionals outside the national setup are Asian champion and world No 4 Zii Jia, two-time former world junior champion Goh Jin Wei, former World Championships bronze medallists Ong Yew Sin-Teo Ee Yi, and Commonwealth Games bronze medallists Tan Kian Meng-Lai Pei Jing.

Dr Tim Jones (left) and Datuk Kenny Goh

Ong Zhen Yi (left) and Loh Zhi Wei.

Zhen Yi, Zhi Wei score crucial ranking points

ON Sunday, two national backup shuttlers came good at the Benin International in Western Africa.

And though it may seem trivial, BAM coaching director Wong Choong Hann explained why it was important for the players to do well.

In the men's singles final, 19-year-old Ong Zhen Yi upset fifth seed Bahaedeen Ahmad Alshannik of Jordan 21-10, 19-21, 21-12. And in the all-Malaysian women's singles final, Loh Zhi Wei upstaged Joanne Ng 21-19, 21-16.

"This is actually a challenging period. For the last two years, these players did not play in any tournament because of Covid-19.

"As a result, they do not have a ranking to compete in most tournaments in our region.

"In Europe, tournaments started opening up last year, but in our region, we are only slowly beginning to see them.

"We have no choice but to send our players to faraway places like Western Africa because it's the only way for them to earn ranking points," Choong Hann said.

The former world No 1 also shared the struggle the players endured while competing in Africa, just so they could get back into the game.

"The World Junior Championships were not held in the past two years, and these former juniors are now part of the senior team.

"Training alone will not get them far, and it's very demotivating if there are no tournaments for them to play. It gets monotonous.

"In Africa, they were exposed to harsh conditions. Apparently, travelling from the hotel to the venue is already an hour and a half, and it is just one way.

"I applaud the team because we know and believe in their ability. The shuttlers just need to get their ranking points before they can start competing in other tournaments.

"I also want to thank coach K. Yogendran (men's singles) for his effort with the players over the last eight months. It has not been easy," added Choong Hann.

After having competed at the Cameroon International as well last month, the players will be returning to Kuala Lumpur, where some are expected to compete in this week's Malaysia Games.

For most of them, it is back to training and examinations (IGCSE), before they resume competing in tournaments in November. **Fabian Peter**

FOOTBALL

Harimau Malaya to compete in King's Cup after 27 years

HARIMAU Malaya will play rivals Thailand on their return to the King's Cup after 27 years on Sept 22 at Chiang Mai Stadium in preparation for next year's Asian Cup.

World No 148 Malaysia defeated 111st-ranked Thailand 1-0 in their last meeting at last year's pre-World Cup in Dubai.

Malaysia last made their appearance in the 1995 edition, where they were represented by an Under-23 team, who finished bottom of the table after losing to Thailand, South Korea and Japan.

Harimau Malaya last won the King's Cup in 1978 when they defeated Singapore in the final in Bangkok.

Trinidad & Tobago will take on Tajikistan in the other knockout match in this year's tournament. The final is on Sept 25.

National coach Kim Pan Gon has yet to announce his team for the tournament.

Former Kedah coach Azraai Khor said the invitation to play in the King's Cup after so many years shows other teams are beginning to respect Harimau Malaya.

"It is a positive indicator. However, Thailand will be out for revenge, and I believe they will be strong at home.

"If the rumour is true, Pan Gon will be testing young players in the tournament. It is still a good opportunity as the Korean will have more options for the Asian Cup," said Azraai. **Farah Azharie**

Azraai Khor

SPORT

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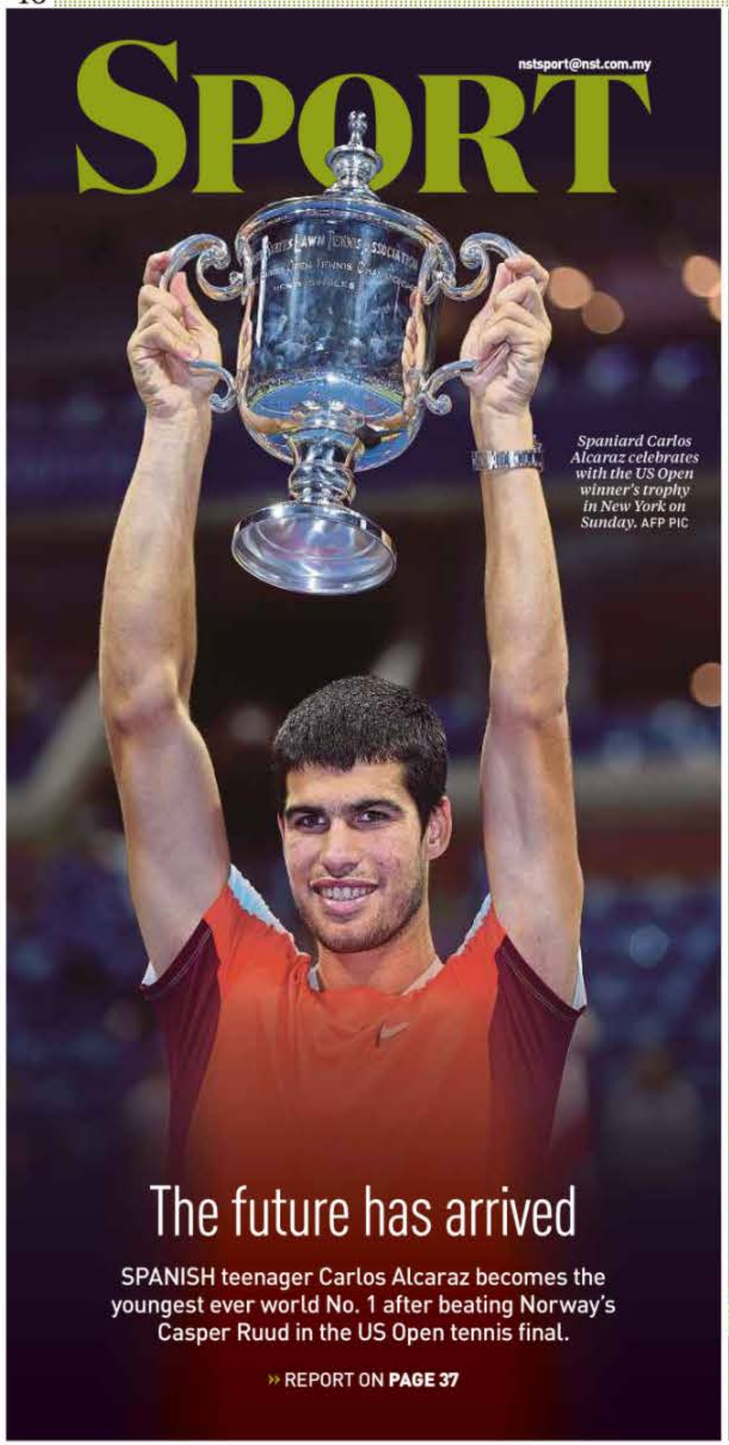


Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz celebrates with the US Open winner's trophy in New York on Sunday. AFP PIC

The future has arrived

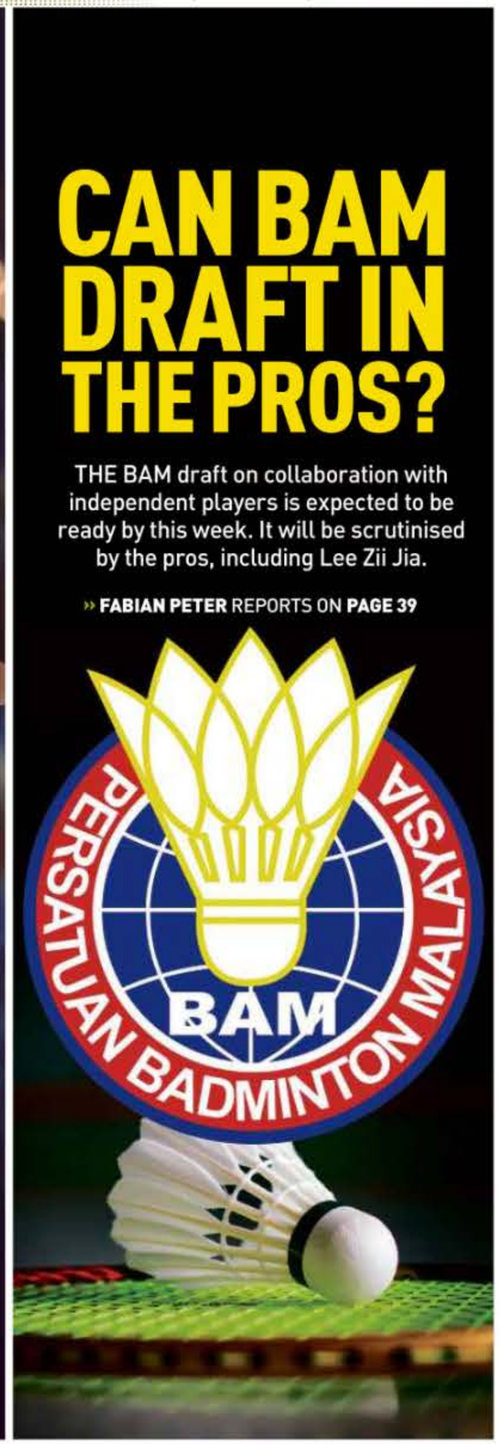
SPANISH teenager Carlos Alcaraz becomes the youngest ever world No. 1 after beating Norway's Casper Ruud in the US Open tennis final.

» REPORT ON **PAGE 37**

CAN BAM DRAFT IN THE PROS?

THE BAM draft on collaboration with independent players is expected to be ready by this week. It will be scrutinised by the pros, including Lee Zii Jia.

» **FABIAN PETER** REPORTS ON **PAGE 39**



FATHER WANTS SON TO ACHIEVE WHAT HE FAILED TO DO

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